Type: Oral presentation

From heteroresistance to resistance: a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) homogenizes population plasticity of gene amplification based heteroresistance

Tuesday, 10 October 2023 13:15 (15 minutes)

Introduction

Heteroresistance (HR) describes the ability of a subpopulation to grow in the presence of inhibitory antibiotic concentrations. We found HR to ceftazidime (CAZ) in a clinical *Enterobacter cloacae* complex (ECC) strain (IMT49658).

Material & Methods

We performed extensive phenotypic (population analysis profiles, stability analysis of resistance, ScanLag) and molecular microbiological techniques (qRT-PCR, whole genome sequencing, raw read analysis) in order to show the plasticity and mechanism of HR in this ECC strain. We re-investigated the genome and phenotype of IMT 49658 after long-term evolution in 32 g/ml CAZ.

Results

WGS detected a plasmidal gene amplification with β -lactamase ampC bla DHA-1. qRT-PCR showed a high genomic copy number of bla DHA 1 in resistant subpopulations, decreasing when they reverted to susceptibility. Gene amplifications varied in single cells of one colony (raw read analysis). Resistant subpopulations showed heterogeneous lag times in ScanLag. After evolving ECC for 21 days in CAZ, we discovered a SNP in dacB , encoding for a stop codon. This mutant displayed low amplification levels but resistance in disk diffusion and homogenous lag times.

Conclusion

Long-term evolution in antibiotic niches drives the emergence of new resistant mutants, balancing the fitness costs of e.g., gene amplifications. Comprehension of the transition from HR to resistance is inevitable for successful treatment of infections from zoonotic bacteria.

Keywords

heteroresistance, plasticity, ceftazidime, Enterobacter spp.

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Professional Status of the Speaker

PhD Student

Junior Scientist Status

Yes, I am a Junior Scientist.

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