

Multi-Drug Resistance Profile, Prevalence of Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase and Carbapenemase-Producing Gram Negative Bacilli Among Admitted Patients After Surgery with Suspected of Surgical Site Nosocomial Infection North East Ethiopia

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Background: Antibiotic resistance is becoming a global issue, with estimated 2.8 million people in the United States developing antibiotic-resistant diseases each year. The carriage of ESBL and Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae among hospitalized patients is a threat to the future of antibiotic treatment.

Objective: Multi-drug resistance profile, prevalence of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase and Carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative bacilli among admitted patients after surgery with suspected surgical site nosocomial infection north east Ethiopia.

Material and Methods: A hospital-based cross-sectional study was conducted from April 2021 to February 2022. Socio-demographic and clinical data were assessed using a structured questionnaire. A total of 384 relevant clinical samples (pus, pus aspirates, and wound swabs) were collected aseptically and processed within 30 min by placing the swabs into the sterile test tubes having 0.5 mL of sterile normal saline. The samples were cultured on MacConkey agar, chocolate agar and blood agar, and species identification was done using standard biochemical tests. Disk diffusion antimicrobial sensitivity test was done on Mueller–Hinton agar. All the cefoxitin resistant Enterobacteriaceae isolates were checked for the presence of AmpC beta-lactamase using four cartridges of disk diffusion tablets. ESBL output validation was conducted by the combination disk test. The production of Carbapenemase was checked using modified carbapenem inactivation method.

Results: The prevalence of significant bacterial nosocomial infection among surgical site infection 343 (89.32%). *S. aureus* 125 (36.4%) was predominant followed by *E. coli* 80 (23.3%) *P. aeruginosa* 31 (9.03%). The overall MDR rate of isolated bacteria was 251 (73.3%). About 150 (73.9%) bacteria were suspected for ESBL production and 67 (33%) AmpC beta-lactamase and 27 (13.3%) Carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative bacterial, respectively.

Conclusions and Recommendations: The severity of ESBL-PE was critical, and the CPE was alarming. Meropenem and imipenem were the most effective antibiotics against ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae. Therefore, strict infection prevention and control measures are needed.

Keywords: carbapenemase, ESBL, Enterobacteriaceae, surgical site infection

Introduction

Antibiotic resistance is becoming a global issue every year, with estimated 2.8 million people in the United States developing antibiotic-resistant diseases. Higher rates of morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs are linked to certain infections. Drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria, on the other hand, are becoming more common in the United States

and around the world. In the past, Gram-positive bacteria such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium difficile* were the most concerning in terms of antibiotic resistance.¹

Beta-lactam antimicrobial drugs are the most commonly prescribed antibiotics for bacterial infections, and they continue to be a major source of Gram-negative bacteria resistance globally. Bacterial strains exposed to a variety of Beta-lactam antibiotics have acquired an energetic and constant production and mutation of Beta-lactames, increasing their activity even against recently produced Beta-lactam antibiotics.²

In hospital settings around the world, ESBL-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* are a substantial threat. The problem is concerning since, with the exception of carbapenems and cephamycin, ESBL enzymes can hydrolyse beta-lactam antibiotics. Furthermore, genes located on plasmids that are extremely mobile, allowing for clonal and horizontal transfer, frequently encode these enzymes. Aminoglycosides, trimethoprim, sulphonamides, tetracyclines, and chloramphenicol resistance genes can all be conferred via these plasmids.³ Carbapenemase and ESBL are easily spread within and between *Enterobacteriaceae* by plasmid and transposon (mobile genetic element) mediated. Infection management becomes a problem with ESBL and Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*, especially in hospitals.⁴

Multidrug resistance (MDR) among bacterial pathogens implicated in both nosocomial and community-acquired infections has emerged as a major threat to public health around the world.⁵ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious hazard to public health that is rapidly growing all over the world. Multidrug resistance bacteria has been found in a variety of nations and continents, with large disparities in carriage prevalence rates.⁶ Multidrug resistant infections have a higher death rate than infections caused by non-MDR bacteria, and they have a significant economic impact, estimated at over \$20 billion per year in the United States alone. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, an infection with an antibiotic-resistant bacterium kills at least 23,000 individuals in the United States per year.⁷

Antimicrobial resistance is increasing in both healthcare settings and in the community around the globe. The dissemination of MDR *Enterobacteriaceae* in particular extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) and Carbapenemase producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE), is alarming. Severe infections due to MDR *Enterobacteriaceae* are associated with worse outcomes and increased mortality, especially when adequate antibiotic therapy is delayed. Low- and middle-income countries are mostly affected, but precise data from their hospitals are often deficient.⁸

Carbapenems are the last choice of antibiotics for the treatment of multi-drug-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (MDR-E) infections. However, carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CIRE) is an on-going public health problem globally.^{9,10} Resistant to carbapenems by production of Carbapenemase is becoming a challenge though limiting the treatment option leads to failure of beta lactam therapy which may result in high economic loss and mortality.¹¹

Carriage of ESBL and Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* among hospitalised patients are a threat to the future of antibiotic treatment. The high burden of ESBL and Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* among asymptomatic individuals has a significant public health effect, for the treatments of both hospital and community-acquired infections.¹²

Although infections caused by ESBL, AmpC and Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* are a global threat, the burden is high in low-income countries like sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), where widespread of self-treatment, overcrowding of hospitals, absence of antibiotic prescription guidelines, poor infection control practices and poor hygiene and antibiotic misuse are common.¹³

Although surgical site infection is a possible source of transmission and infection, little is known about it, and there is limited evidence in the literature on *Enterobacteriaceae* that produce extended spectrum beta-lactamase, AmpC beta-lactamase and Carbapenemase in settings. To prevent nosocomial infection caused by AMR *Enterobacteriaceae*, it is necessary to know the magnitude of fecal carriage of ESBL, AmpC beta-lactamase, and Carbapenemase-producing bacterial pathogens. This study will also aid in the careful selection of empirical therapy based on the local susceptibility pattern. Hence, the aim of this study was to determine the multi-drug resistance profile, Carbapenemase, and ESBL-producing health care bacterial pathogen among patients suspected of surgical associated nosocomial infection at Dessie and Borumeda comprehensive specialized hospital Dessie and Borumeda Specialized Hospital (DCSH), north east, Ethiopia.

Materials and Methods

Study Design and Period

A hospital-based prospective cohort study was conducted from April 2021 to February 2022 at Dessie and Borumeda Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, which is found in Dessie town, north east, Ethiopia. Dessie and Borumeda is located 400 Km from the capital city of the country, Addis Ababa. According to the 2007 population and housing census of Ethiopia, the town has a total of 450,012 people. Dessie and Borumeda is situated at an altitude of 2840 m above sea level with a mean annual temperature that ranges from 10°C to 16°C. It has 500 beds and offers pediatrics, emergency, surgery, medical, gynecology, psychiatry, ophthalmology, antiretroviral therapy (ART), neonatal intensive care unit, microbiological laboratory, viral load, and other health care services.

Study Participants

Operating patients with any surgical site infection and emergency surgical procedures at general surgery, gynecology/obstetrics, and orthopaedics wards were included in the study. All operated patients with any surgical site infection visiting the health facilities suspected of having bacterial infection during the study period were included in this study, and all of these eligible patients were monitored for 30 days to see if they got SSI. A bacteriological sample was obtained from individuals who had any surgical site infection during the 30-day follow-up period. Patients who had any surgical site infection at the start of the experiment died within 48 hours of the start of the experiment, or refused to participate were excluded.

Sampling Size Determination and Sampling Technique

A total of 384 Surgical patients who met the criteria were calculated and collected by using a single population proportion sample size determination formula, by considering 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error, and 50% estimated proportion and observed for evidence of infection on a daily basis. The clinical criteria for surgical site infection development (superficial incisional any surgical site infection, deep incisional any surgical site infection, and organ/space any surgical site infection) from the CDC any surgical site infection categorization system were used.¹⁴

Data and Specimen Collection

Socio-demographic characteristics such as age, occupation, sex, educational level, and residence of patients were assessed using a short interview guided by a pre-tested structured questionnaire. The clinical evaluation of surgical sites (wounds) was done by physicians. The clinical features of the wounds such as pain, redness, swelling, warm skin around the wound, yellow or green discharge, unpleasant odor, fever, and chills were considered for the clinical diagnosis of surgical site infection. The clinical samples (pus, pus aspirates, and wound swabs) were collected aseptically and processed immediately in the microbiology laboratory within 30 minutes by placing the swabs into the sterile test tubes containing 0.5 mL of sterile normal saline. The swabs and pus aspirate were inoculated on the sterile nutrient broth medium and the Amies medium right away.¹⁵ Each sample bottle was labeled carefully and transported to the laboratory immediately for microbiological investigations.

Specimen Processing, Culture

The collected samples were inoculated onto MacConkey agar, Blood agar, Mannitol salt agar and chocolate agar plates.^{15,16} MacConkey agar, Blood agar and Mannitol salt agar were incubated at 37°C for 24–48 hours aerobic condition. Meanwhile, Chocolate agar plates were incubated in 5–10% CO₂ atmosphere environment at 37°C for 24–48 hours. All the plates were incubated and examined for growth after 24 hours and the ones without growth were further incubated for up to 48 hrs.^{15,16}

Isolation and Identification of Bacterial Isolates

Bacterial isolates were characterized using hemolysis pattern, colony morphology, Gram stain and using a panel of biochemical tests based on the Gram reaction (for Gram positives, mannitol fermentation, catalase, coagulase, bacitracin and optochin were disks used, and for Gram negatives, glucose and lactose fermentation, hydrogen sulfide production,

indole production, motility tests, urease production, citrate utilization and lysine iron agar and Triple sugar iron agar tests) were implemented based on the standard microbiological methods.¹⁶

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

The antimicrobial susceptibility profiles of bacterial isolates were determined by Kirby-Bauer disc diffusion method, and the results were interpreted according to CLSI guidelines.¹⁷ The following antibacterial agents were selected based on local prescription habit and CLSI recommendations. The standard antibiotic discs (Liofilchem-Italy, HARDY Diagnosis-Santa Maria, USA) and its concentrations used as follows: penicillin (10 μ g), chloramphenicol (30 μ g), ciprofloxacin (5 μ g), clindamycin (30 μ g), ceftazidime (30 μ g), trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (1.25/23.75 μ g), cefotaxime (30 μ g), ceftazidime (30 μ g), erythromycin (15 μ g) and oxacillin (30 μ g) are the antimicrobial agents that can be used by Gram-positive bacteria. Cefoxitin (FOX:30 μ g), gentamicin (GM: 10 μ g), amikacin (AM:30 μ g) ciprofloxacin (CIP: 5 μ g), trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (SXT: 1.25/23.75 μ g), imipenem (IMP: 10 μ g), meropenem (MEM: 10 μ g), amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (AMC: 20/10 μ g), cefotaxime (CTX: 30 μ g), ceftazidime (CAZ: 30 μ g), ceftazidime (CRO: 30 μ g), tetracycline (TE: 30 μ g) and chloramphenicol (CL: 30 μ g) can be used for Gram-negative bacteria. Diameters of zones of inhibitions were measured using digital caliper. The interpretation of the results of antimicrobial susceptibility tests was based on a standardized table supplied by CLSI2020.¹⁷

MDR = resistant to at least one agent in three or more antimicrobial classes¹⁸

Screening of ESBLs, AmpC Beta-Lactamase and Carbapenemase

The gram-negative bacterial isolates which showed an inhibition zone size of ≤ 22 mm with ceftazidime (30 μ g), and/or ≤ 27 mm with cefotaxime (30 μ g) were considered as potential extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing bacteria and further examined for phenotypic confirmation of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase production. Gram-negative bacteria, which showed an inhibition zone size of ≤ 14 mm to ceftazidime (30 μ g), were considered as potential AmpC beta-lactamase producers. On the other hand, all Gram-negative bacteria that showed resistance to imipenem or meropenem or zone of inhibition ≤ 19 mm for imipenem or meropenem were considered as carbapenemase producers.¹⁷

Phenotypic Confirmation of Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase with Combination Disk Test

A disk of ceftazidime (30 μ g) and cefotaxime (30 μ g) alone and their combination with Clavulanic acid (30 μ g/10 μ g) were placed at a distance of 25 mm, centre to centre, on MHA plate that was seeded with a bacterial suspension of 0.5 McFarland turbidity standard and incubated overnight (18–24 hrs) at 37°C. Gram-negative bacteria that showed an increase in the inhibition zone diameter of ≥ 5 mm for a combination disk versus ceftazidime or cefotaxime disk alone were confirmed as ESBL producer.¹⁷

Phenotypic Confirmation of Carbapenemase Production

The gram-negative bacteria isolates that were not susceptible to imipenem or meropenem were checked for the presence of carbapenemase using a modified carbapenem inactivation method (mCIM) based on the CLSI guideline.¹⁷ Modified Hodge Test (MHT) were conducted that McFarland standard equivalent suspension of carbapenem-sensitive indicator organism (*E. coli* ATCC®25922) was evenly swabbed to MHA, and then the meropenem in the TSB was dispensed. After incubation for 24 hours at 37°C, the zone of inhibition for meropenem was measured. If the zone of inhibition was between 6 and 15 mm or 16 and 18 mm with pin points at the inhibition zone, it was considered as a carbapenemase producer.¹⁷

Phenotypic Confirmation of AmpC Beta-Lactamase Production

All the ceftazidime non-susceptible Gram-negative bacterial isolates were checked for the presence of AmpC beta-lactamase using four cartridges of disk diffusion tablets. One cartridge of tablets with cefotaxime, one with ceftazidime, and two cartridges of the cephalosporins combined with cloxacillin (AmpC inhibitor). An increase in the inhibition zone

diameter of ≥ 5 mm for a combination disk versus ceftazidime or cefotaxime disk alone was confirmed as AmpC beta-lactamase producing Gram-negative bacteria.¹⁷

Quality Assurance

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were strictly followed for each procedure. The specimens were processed and transported as soon after receipt as possible. Delayed specimens were placed in the refrigerator. Expiry date of the media, reagents and antibiotic disks were checked before use. Quality control of culture media was verified for sterility test by overnight incubation of 5% one uninoculated plate/tube of the prepared media from each batch. Positive and negative controls were used for biochemical media; and visual inspections of holes, uneven filling, and haemolysis, signs of freezing, bubbles and corrosion in media or plastic Petri dishes were conducted to check the quality of all prepared culture media. Moreover, standard reference strain of *S. aureus* (ATCC-25923), *E. coli* (ATCC-25922) and *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC-27853) were used as control strains. For ESBLs confirmatory test, ESBLs positive *K. pneumoniae* ATCC 700603 and ESBLs negative *E. coli* ATCC 25922 control strains were performed. *E. cloacae* (ATCC 1143) and *E. coli* (ATCC 25922) were used as positive and negative QC strains for AmpC beta-lactamase producing Gram-negative, respectively. *E. coli* ATCC 25922 control strain was used as negative control for Carbapenem resistance detection.

Statistical Analysis

The data generated were entered every day into the epi-data version 4.6.0.4. The data were then exported and analysed using the Social Sciences Statistical Package (SPSS) version 25. The frequency and percentage descriptive statistics were calculated and presented using graphs and tables.

Ethical Approval

Ethical approval was obtained from the ethical review committee of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Wollo University and the official letter of cooperation was written to respective health facilities prior to data collection. Moreover, prior to commencing the study, a written informed consent was obtained from each study participant. Study participants, aged less than 18 years, were asked for assent and written consent was taken from their parents or legal guardians. Throughout the study, confidentiality and any unique data security needs were maintained and ensured. Moreover, this study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Result

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

A total of 384 surgery patients were enrolled in this study with a 100% response rate. Among the study participants, 204 (53.1%) were males. The mean age of the participants was 42 (SD \pm 6.92) years, with an age range of 5 to 87 years. Majority 290 (75.5%) of the study participants were from urban dwellers, 126 (32.8%) were Government employed, 105 (27.3%) were illiterate, 288 (75%) were married and 101 (26.3%) had >2000 Birr monthly income (Table 1).

Behavioural and Clinical Related Factors

From the perspective of behavioural-related factors, most of the study participants 75 (19.5%) were smokers, 96 (25%) were chat chewers; and 86 (22.4%) were alcohol drinkers, respectively (Table 2). Whereas it related to clinical factors, most of 257 (66.9%) of the study subjects were admitted in the surgical ward. The majority of 191 (49.7%) wounds were located on the abdomen and leg 91 (23.7%). There were 165 (23.7%) elective and 105 (23.5%) censorial section operations. High proportions of participants 129 (33.6%) were found in the contaminate wound, 120 (31.3%) in clean-contaminated, 87 (22.6%) in dirty, and low proportions of participants 48 (12.5%) were found in clean wound class. About 114 (29.7%) study participants had developed discharge. Most of the study participants were 339 (88.3%) HIV negative and 306 (79.7%) non-diabetic patients, respectively. Furthermore, 176 participants (45.8%) were hospitalized for more than two weeks (Table 2).

Table I Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Study Participants Debre Birhan Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia, from April 2021 to February 2022

Variables		Frequency	Percent (%)
Age in years			
	5–16	22	5.7
	17–30	195	50.8
	31–45	144	37.5
	>45	23	6
Sex	Male	180	46.9
	Female	204	53.1
Residence			
	Urban	290	75.5
	Rural	94	24.5
Occupation			
	Daily labour	121	31.5
	Government employed	126	32.8
	Student	34	8.8
	Merchant	55	14.3
	House wife	48	12.5
Educational level			
	Illiterate	105	27.34
	Only read and write	23	6
	Primary school	85	22
	Secondary school	90	23.4
	College and above	71	18.5
Marital status			
	Single	49	12.76
	Married	288	75
	Divorced	18	4.7
	Widowed	29	7.55
Monthly family income (ETB)			
	≤500	93	24.2
	501–1000	76	19.8
	1001–1500	59	15.4
	1501–2000	55	14.3
	>2000	101	26.3

Table 2 Distribution of Bacterial with Clinical and Procedural Condition of Study the Study Participants Debre Birhan Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia, from April 2021 to February 2022

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent	Significant Bacterial Growth	
				Yes N (%)	No N (%)
Ward	Surgical	257	66.9%	245(95.3%)	12(4.7%)
	Pediatrics	22	5.7%	14(63.6%)	8(36.4%)
	Gyni/Obs	105	27.4%	84(80%)	21(20%)
Location of wound	Hand	65	16.9%	57(87.7%)	8(22.3%)
	Abdomen	191	49.7%	181(94.8%)	10(5.2%)
	Leg	91	23.7%	80(87.9%)	11(12.1%)
	Head	25	6.5%	17(68%)	8(32%)
	Others	14	3.6%	8(57.1%)	6(42.9%)
Type of surgery	Elective	165	43.0%	150(90.9%)	15(9.9%)
	Emergency	114	29.7%	101(88.6%)	13(11.4%)
	CS	105	23.3%	92(87.6%)	13(12.4%)
Type of wound	Clean	48	12.5%	25(52.1%)	23(47.9%)
	Contaminate	129	33.6%	120(93%)	9(7%)
	Clean contaminate	120	31.3%	115(95.8%)	5(4.2%)
	Dirty	87	22.6%	83(95.4%)	4(4.6%)
Duration of surgery	<120 minutes	256	66.7%	225(87.9%)	31(12.1%)
	>120 minutes	128	33.3%	118(92.2%)	10(7.8%)
Medical stay in hospitals	<2 weeks	208	54.2%	178(85.6%)	30(14.4%)
	>2 weeks	176	45.8%	165(93.8%)	11(6.2%)
HIV status	Positive	45	11.7%	40(88.9%)	5(11.1%)
	Negative	339	88.3%	303(89.4%)	36(10.6%)
Diabetics	Yes	78	20.3%	65(83.3%)	13(16.7%)
	No	306	79.7%	278(90.8%)	28(9.2%)
Discharge develops	Yes	114	29.7%	105(92.1%)	9(7.9%)
	No	270	70.3%	238(88.1%)	32(11.9%)
Antimicrobial prophylaxis	Yes	345	89.8%	325(94.2%)	20(5.8%)
	No	39	10.2%	18(46.2%)	21(54.8%)
Cigarette smoking	Yes	75	19.5%	60(80%)	15(20%)
	No	309	80.5%	283(91.2%)	23(8.8%)
Chat chewing habit	Yes	96	25%	78(81.3%)	18(18.7%)
	No	288	75%	265(92%)	23(8%)
Alcohol drinking habit	Yes	86	22.4%	68(79.1%)	18(20.9%)
	No	298	77.6%	275(92.3%)	23(7.7%)

The Magnitude of Surgical Site Infection

The magnitude of bacterial growth was high among surgical patients 245 (95.3%). Among 165 elective surgery patients 150 (90.9%) developed bacterial infection. Bacterial surgical site infection occurred in 115 (95.8%) of the 120 clean contaminate wounds, 83 (95.4%) of the 87 dirty wounds, and 120 (93%) of the 129 contaminate wounds. Regarding comorbidity conditions, 83.3% (65/78) diabetic patients developed SSI. The majority of the HIV positive patients 88.9% (40/49) developed surgical site infections (Table 2).

Profile of Bacterial Isolates from Surgical Site Infections

In this study, out of 384 cultured specimens, 343 had significant bacterial growth of surgical site nosocomial infection. The prevalence of significant bacterial infection among surgical site infection 343 (89.32%) with (95% CI 84.2–9.2%). Majority 203 (59.2%) of the bacterial isolates were Gram negative bacterial. *S. aureus* 125 (36.4%) was predominant bacterial isolates followed by *E. coli* 80 (23.3%) *P. aeruginosa* 31 (9.03%), whereas *P. vulgaris* 9(2.6%) and *Acinetobacter species* 3(0.88%) were the least isolated bacteria (Figure 1).

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Profile of Isolates

Gram Positive Bacteria

In general, Gram-positive bacteria showed a high level of resistance to tetracycline 118 (84.29%) and medium resistance to chloramphenicol 105 (75%) and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole 96 (65.87%). On the other hand, 64% and 52% of Gram-positive isolates were susceptible to ciprofloxacin and cefotaxime, respectively. More than 60% of *S. aureus* isolates were resistant to tetracycline, chloramphenicol, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and penicillin. Similarly, CONS showed 86.7%, 80% and 73.3% resistance to tetracycline, penicillin, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, respectively. About 81.6% of *S. aureus* isolates also showed resistance to methicillin. However, 66% of *S. aureus* isolates were susceptible to erythromycin (Table 3).

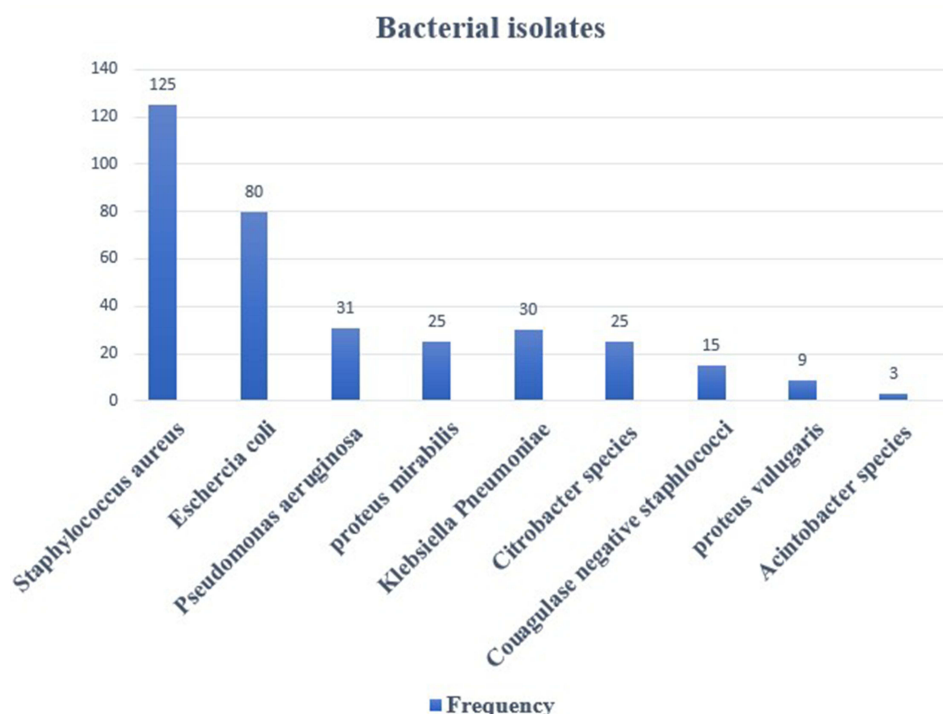


Figure 1 Frequency of bacteria isolated from surgical site infection in Dessie Comprehensive Specialized and Borumeda General Hospital, from April 2021- February 2022.

Table 3 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of Gram-Positive Bacterial (n = 140) Isolates Among Surgery Patients with Suspected of Surgical Site Nosocomial Infection at Dessie and Borumeda Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, from April 2021 to February 2022

Bacterial Isolates		Number of Resistance Pathogens to Antimicrobial Agents No (%)								
		E N (%)	P N (%)	C N (%)	CXT N (%)	CL N (%)	CIP N (%)	SXT N (%)	FOX N (%)	TE N (%)
<i>S. aureus</i> (125)	S	55(66)	50(40)	30(24)	65(52)	50(40)	80(64)	40(32)	23(18.4)	20(16)
	R	70(30)	75(60)	95(76)	60(48)	75(60)	45(36)	85(68)	102(81.6)	105(84)
CONS (15)	S	4(26.7)	3(20)	5(33.3)	NT	10(66.7)	NT	4(26.7)	NT	2(12.3)
	R	11(73.3)	12(80)	10(66.7)	NT	5(33.3)	NT	11(73.3)	NT	13(86.7)
Total (140)	S	59(42.14)	53(37.85)	35(25.0)	65(52)	60(42.85)	80(64)	44(34.13)	23(18.4)	22(15.71)
	R	81(57.86)	87(62.15)	105(75)	60(48)	80(57.15)	45(36)	96(65.87)	102(81.6)	118(84.29)

Abbreviations: CL, Clindamycin; E, Erythromycin; C, Chloramphenicol; CIP, Ciprofloxacin; TE, Tetracycline; SXT, Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole; CTX, cefotaxime; FOX, Cefoxitin; P, penicillin; R, Resistant; OX, oxacillin; FOX, Cefoxitin S, Sensitive; NT, Not tested.

Gram Negative Bacteria

In this study, the majority of isolated Gram-negative bacteria showed a higher resistance rate of 93.3% for tetracycline, 84.6% for ampicillin and 81.9% for amoxicillin-clavulanic acid. Gram-negative bacteria against ceftazidime, tetracycline, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, chloramphenicol, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, cefotaxime, amikacin, ceftriaxone, and gentamicin showed resistance rates ranging from 78 (43.8%) to 126 (93.3%). However, Gram-negative bacterial isolates showed relatively high sensitivity against gentamicin 113 (63.5%) and ciprofloxacin 100 (56.2%). The resistance rate of *E. coli* to tetracycline, amoxicillin-clavulanate, co-trimoxazole, chloramphenicol, and ceftazidime was 76 (95%), 69 (86.3%), 65 (81.3%), 48 (60%), and 42 (52.5%), respectively. However, the resistance rate was less than 50% for ciprofloxacin 39 (48.5%), amikacin (45%), meropenem (42.5%), and gentamicin 30 (37.5%). Isolates of *P. aeruginosa* showed more resistance to ceftazidime 16 (511.6%), amikacin 18 (58.1%) and piperacillin tazobactam 16 (511.6%). Similarly, *K. pneumoniae* isolates were more resistant to tetracycline (90%), amoxicillin-clavulanate (80%) and chloramphenicol (60%). *C. freundii* isolates were also resistant to tetracycline, amoxicillin-clavulanate, co-trimoxazole, and chloramphenicol, but not gentamicin or ciprofloxacin (Table 4).

Multiple Drug Resistance Patterns of the Isolates

Overall, 331 (96.5%) bacterial isolates were shown to be resistant to at least one antimicrobial class and 294 (85.7%) isolates were resistant to ≥ 2 antimicrobial classes. About 72 (21%) isolates had developed resistance to five or more antimicrobials. The overall, MDR rate of isolated bacteria was 251 (73.3%). The MDR rate of Gram-positive and Gram-Negative isolates were 65% and 78.8%, respectively. About 83.4% of *E. coli*, 80% of *K. pneumoniae*, 77.4% of *P. aeruginosa*, 76% of *C. freundii* and 68% of *S. aureus* isolates developed MDR (Table 5).

ESBL, AmpC Beta-Lactamase and Carbapenem-Producing Gram-Negative Bacteria

Of a total of 203 Gram-negative bacterial isolates, 150 (73.9%) were suspected for ESBL production with cefotaxime zone of inhibition ≤ 27 mm and ceftazidime zone of inhibition ≤ 22 mm. Out of the 150 suspected Gram-negative bacterial isolates 108 (72%) were confirmed ESBL production by using a combination disc test. The overall magnitude of ESBL producing Gram negative bacteria was 108 (53.3%). The overall magnitude of AmpC beta-lactamase and Carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative bacterial isolates was 67 (33%) and 27 (13.3%), respectively (Table 6).

Table 4 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of Gram-Negative Bacterial (n = 203) Isolates Among Surgery Patients with Suspected of Surgical Site Nosocomial Infection at Dessie and Borumeda Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, from April 2021 to February 2022

Gram negative Bacterial Isolates	Antimicrobials Tested													
		C N (%)	TE N (%)	CIP N (%)	CXT N (%)	SXT N (%)	GN N (%)	AMP N (%)	AMC N (%)	FOX N (%)	CAZ N (%)	AMK N (%)	MEM N (%)	IMP N (%)
<i>E. coli</i> (80)	S	32(60)	4(5)	41(51.5)	28(35)	15(18.7)	50(62.5)	1(12.5)	11(13.7)	41(51.5)	38(47.5)	44(55)	46(57.5)	NT
	R	48(60)	76(95)	39(48.5)	52(65)	65(81.3)	30(37.5)	67(87.5)	69(86.3)	39(48.5)	42(52.5)	36(45)	38(42.5)	NT
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (31)	S	NT	NT	20(64.5)	17(54.8)	NT	19(61.3)	NT	NT	16(51.6)	15(48.4)	13(41.9)	18(58.1)	15(48.4)
	R	NT	NT	11(35.5)	14(45.2)	NT	12(38.7)	NT	NT	15(48.4)	16(51.6)	18(58.1)	13(41.9)	16(51.6)
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (30)	S	12(40)	3(10)	17(56.7)	14(46.3)	7(23.3)	18(60)	5(16.7)	6(20)	11(43.3)	14(46.7)	16(53.3)	17(56.7)	NT
	R	18(60)	27(90)	13(43.3)	16(53.3)	23(76.7)	12(40)	25(83.3)	24(80)	17(56.7)	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	13(43.3)	NT
<i>Citrobacter species</i> (25)	S	6(23.4)	2(8)	14(56)	11(44)	8(32)	5(55.6)	2(8)	NT	12(48)	12(48)	13(52)	13(52)	NT
	R	19(76.6)	23(92)	11(44)	14(56)	17(68)	4(44.4)	23(92)	NT	13(52)	13(52)	12(48)	12(48)	NT
<i>P. mirabilis</i> (25)	S	7(28)	NT	15(60)	14(55.6)	6(24)	15(60)	5(20)	8(32)	9(36)	NT	13(52)	12(48)	NT
	R	18(72)	NT	10(40)	11(44.4)	19(76)	10(40)	20(80)	17(68)	16(64)	NT	12(48)	13(52)	NT
<i>P. vulgaris</i> (9)	S	4(44.4)	NT	6(66.7)	5(55.6)	2(22.2)	4(44.4)	1(11.1)	1(11.1)	4(44.4)	4(44.4)	5(55.6)	5(55.6)	NT
	R	5(55.6)	NT	3(33.3)	4(44.4)	7(77.8)	5(55.6)	8(88.9)	8(88.9)	5(55.6)	5(55.6)	4(44.4)	4(44.4)	NT
<i>Acinetobacter species</i> (3)	S	NT	NT	2(66.7)	NT	NT	1(33.3)	NT	NT	NT	1(33.3)	1(33.3)	1(33.3)	0(0)
	R	NT	NT	1(33.3)	NT	NT	2(66.7)	NT	NT	NT	2(66.7)	2(66.7)	2(66.7)	3(100)
Total (203)	S	61(36.1)	9(6.7)	115(56.7)	91(45.5)	38(22.5)	128(63.1)	26(15.4)	21(18.1)	95(47.5)	(40.2)	105(51.7)	109(53.7)	15(44.1)
	R	108(63.9)	126(93.3)	88(43.3)	111(54.5)	131(77.5)	75(36.9)	143(84.6)	118(81.9)	105(52.5)	79(59.8)	98(48.3)	94(46.3)	19(55.9)

Abbreviations: NT, Note tested; AMP, Ampicillin; GN, Gentamicin; AMK, Amikacin; CIP, Ciprofloxacin (5µg); SXT, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole; MEM, Meropenem; IMP, Imipenem; AMC, Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid; CTX, cefotaxime; CAZ, Ceftazidime; FOX, Cefoxitin; TE, Tetracycline (30 µg); C, Chloramphenicol; R, Resistant; S, Sensitive.

Table 5 Magnitude of Multi-Drug Resistance Profile of Bacterial Isolates (n = 175) Among Surgery Patients with Suspected of Surgical Site Nosocomial Infection at Dessie and Borumeda Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, from April 2021 to February 2022

Organism Isolated	Antimicrobial Resistance Pattern						MDR N (%)
	R ₀ ; N (%)	R ₁ N (%)	R ₂ N (%)	R ₃ N (%)	R ₄ N (%)	≥R ₅ N (%)	
Gram positive	7(5)	22(15.7)	20(14.3)	27(19.3)	34(24.3)	30(21.4)	91(65)
<i>S. aureus</i>	6(4.8)	19(15.2)	15(12)	24(19.2)	32(25.6)	29(23.2)	85(68)
CONS	1(6.7)	3(20)	5(33.3)	3(20)	2(13.3)	1(6.7)	6(40)
Gram negative	8(3.9)	16(7.9)	22(10.8)	53(26.1)	65(32.0)	42(20.7)	160(78.8)
<i>E. coli</i>	3(3.8)	4(5)	6(7.5)	20(25)	25(31.3)	22(27.5)	67(83.8)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	1(3.2)	4(12.9)	5(16.1)	9(29)	8(25.8)	4(13)	21(67.7)
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	2(6.7)	2(6.7)	2(6.7)	7(23.3)	11(36.7)	6(20)	24(80)
<i>Citrobacter species</i>	1(4)	3(12)	2(8)	6(24)	8(32)	5(20)	19(76)
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	1(4)	2(8)	3(12)	7(28)	8(32)	4(16)	19(76)
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	0(0)	1(50)	2(50)	3(0)	3(0)	0(0)	6(66.7)
<i>Acinetobacter species</i>	0(0)	0(0)	2(100)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(33.3)
Overall Total	15(4.4)	38(11.1)	42(12.2)	80(23.3)	99(28.9)	72(21)	251(73.2)

Abbreviations: MDR, multi-drug resistant; R₀, No antibiotic resistance; R₁, resistance to one; R₂, resistance to two; R₃, resistance to three; R₄, resistance to four; R₅, resistance to four antibiotics; R₅, resistance to five and more than five antibiotics.

Table 6 Prevalence of ESBL, Carbapenem and AmpC Production Among Gram-Negative Isolates Among Surgery Patients with Suspected of Surgical Site Nosocomial Infection at Dessie and Borumeda Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, from April 2021 to February 2022

Isolates(number)	Total (N)	ESBL n (%)		AmpC beta-lactamase n (%)		Carbapenemase n (%)	
		Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
<i>E. coli</i>	80	44(54.5%)	36(45.5%)	25(31.3%)	55(68.7%)	9(11.2%)	68(88.8%)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	31	15(48.4%)	16(51.6%)	13(38.7%)	18(73.5%)	6(19.4%)	24(80.6%)
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	30	16(53.3%)	14(46.7%)	10(33.3%)	20(66.7%)	4(13.3%)	27(86.7%)
<i>Citrobacter species</i>	25	14(56%)	11(44%)	7(28%)	18(72%)	3(12%)	22(88%)
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	25	13(52%)	12(48%)	8(32%)	17(68%)	3(12%)	22(88%)
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	9	5(55.6%)	4(44.4%)	3(33.3%)	6(66.7%)	1(11.1%)	5(55.6%)
<i>Acinetobacter species</i>	3	1(33.3) %	2(66.7%)	1(33.3%)	2(66.7%)	1(33.3%)	1(66.7%)
Total	203	108(53.2%)	95(46.8%)	67(33%)	136(67%)	27(13.3%)	176(86.7%)

Discussion

Surgical site infection is one of the most communal health complications that is caused and provoked by the invasion of pathogenic organisms as well as the main cause of disease and death in the world.¹⁹ The present study was conducted to determine the prevalence of Multi drug resistance, Carbapenemase and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase producing bacterial isolates among surgery patients with suspected surgical site nosocomial infection. In the current study, the

significant bacterial growth among surgical site infections was 343 (89.32%) % (83.3–94.3%). This finding was consistent with the previous reports in Jimma Ethiopia 87.3%,²⁰ Addis Ababa (84.1%),²¹ and Gondar 83.9%,²² and similar findings were also reported in Bangladesh 92.3%.²³ However, it was higher than research conducted in Debre-Markos, Ethiopia 72.6%,²⁴ Nepal 65%,²⁵ India 68%,²⁶ Nigeria 64.8%,²⁷ and Nigeria 82%.²⁸ These variations among different studies might be due to the fact that the wound bed preparation, sample selection, transportation, and culturing technique, wound care and safety, treatment for rapid healing, sterilization method, and local surgical site treatment can have an impact on the significant bacterial growth rate. The other factor might be different circulations of pathogens among healthcare workers' dress, inpatients' hospital equipment, or interventional procedures. However, the prevalence of Gram-negative bacteria among surgical site infections was 52.9% (203/384). It is in line with a study conducted in Addis Ababa, 54%²⁹ and Nigeria (50.9%).³⁰ However, the present study presented that higher than study done in Bahir Dar Ethiopia 35.2%,³¹ in Ethiopia (25.13%),³² Uganda (32%)³³ and India (37%),³⁴ Mexico (19%),³⁵ Nipa (19.5%)³⁶ and Nepal (12.6%).³⁷ However, it is significantly lower in comparison to other study results from Bosnia (65.2%)³⁸ and India (62%)³⁹.

The current study revealed that Gram-negative bacteria had shown higher antibiotic resistance rates of 93.3% for tetracycline, 84.6% for ampicillin, and 81.9% for amoxicillin-clavulanic acid. Relatively, in the present study, Gram-negative bacteria showed lower resistance to ceftazidime, tetracycline, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, chloramphenicol, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, cefotaxime, amikacin, ceftriaxone, and gentamicin in ranges from 43.8% to 93.3%. However, it is relatively responsive to gentamicin (63.5% sensitivity) and ciprofloxacin (56.2% sensitivity). This finding is consistent with studies done in Ethiopia where 72 (94.7%), 68 (89.5%), 60 (78.9%), 57 (75%), and 56 (73.7%) were found to be resistant to ampicillin, cephalosporins, cefuroxime sodium, amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, cefotaxime²¹ and Iran, where 36% of Gram negative bacteria were resistant to ciprofloxacin.⁴⁰ Similarly, a Mexican study found that the Gram-negative bacterial isolated was resistant to ampicillin (95.85%), cefuroxime (84.17%), piperacillin (82.93%), cefotaxime (78.07%), ceftriaxone (77.41%), aztreonam (75.23%), cefazolin (75.00%), and ceftazidime (73.19%).³⁵ According to Nepal research, *E. coli* is most sensitive to cephalosporins and tetracycline, and resistant to quinolones, fluoroquinolones, and sulphonamides.⁴¹ This is despite the fact that a wide range of antibiotics may be used to treat Gram-negative surgical site infections. However, some resistant strains have emerged, resulting in life-threatening superbugs. In the fight against diseases, the rising rates of antimicrobial resistance in our environment expose partners to the need for improved antibiotic prescription tracking and management.

The overall prevalence of MDR in this study was 73.2% (95% CI: 68.2%, 78.2%), which was comparable to studies done in Addis Abeba, where the MDR was 75.2%.²¹ On the other hand, the overall MDR rate of Gram-negative bacteria was 78.8%. Even though the result was comparable with the study reports in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, the MDR of Gram-negative was 80.5%,³¹ in Nepal MDR Gram-negative which accounted 82.5%.⁴² Previous antibiotic treatment, unnecessary medication therapy, chronic respiratory infections, liver problems, and intellectual disease, previous multidrug resistance, recent hospital readmissions, longer hospital stays, endobronchial tracheostomy, and mechanical ventilation could all contribute to this. Antibiotic resistance has mostly resulted in the emergence of antibiotic misuse and overuse in humans and livestock. In our hospital and community, overcrowding, cleaning errors, and inadequate infection control procedures are the possible risk factors for the development of resistant bacteria.

In the current study, Gram-negative bacteria which showed the highest MDR rates were observed in *E. coli* 83.8%, *K. pneumoniae* 80%, *Citrobacter species* and *P. mirabilis* 76% each, *P. aeruginosa* 67.7%, *P. vulgaris* 66.7% and *Acinetobacter species* 33.3%. A similar report was found at Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, were *Klebsiella pneumoniae* which accounted MDR rate of 87.6% followed by *E. aerogenes* 83.3%, *E. coli* 82.6%, *E. cloacae* 77.8%.⁴³ In contrast to Mexico, it also showed that the highest percentage of MDR profiles seen in *E. coli* accounted 91.57% and *Acinetobacter baumannii* 86.79%.³⁵ In Iran, lower MDR Gram-negative bacteria were reported in 25.8% of *Acinetobacter species*, 20% of *Klebsiella species*, and 16.6% of *Pseudomonas species*. The antimicrobials that were the most effective were vancomycin 93.5% followed by amikacin 71.5% and gentamicin 46%.⁴⁰ Excessively broad coverage raises the risk of antibiotic resistance in the majority of instances. Underlying diseases or conditions such as diabetes, chronic renal disease, or skin lesions are examples of underlying illnesses for which drugs have been administered in the past and might be the contributing factors to multi-drug resistance. Ciprofloxacin, meropenem, and amikacin were found to be

relatively active antibiotics in this study. Moreover, unlike other common antimicrobial drugs with an oral route, amikacin was not as accessible to the general public in the study setting.

In the present study, the prevalence of ESBL-producing Gram-negative bacteria was 53.2%, which is concurrent in Bahir Dar Ethiopia 57.8%,⁴⁴ Nepal, 55.6%,⁴² Cameroon, 55.3%,⁴⁵ and India 54.3%.⁴⁶ However, the present study was higher than study done in Bahir Dar Ethiopia 24.8%,³¹ India 35.2%,⁴⁷ France (25%),⁴⁸ Nepal (28.2%),³⁷ Qatar (26%),⁴⁹ India (21.4%),³⁴ Saudi (38.8%)⁵⁰ and in Algeria 47.6%,⁵¹ whereas the current result of ESBL was lower than 72% reported at a tertiary care hospital in Riyadh capital,⁵² Pakistan 60%⁵³ and Nigeria 65%.⁵⁴ This suggested that beta-lactamase-producing bacteria were widely disseminated around the world, particularly in developing countries like Ethiopia. This could be due to a lack of antibiotic treatments and lack of sanitation in undeveloped countries. Additionally, growing world trade and international travel have been identified as significant risk factors for the emergence of resistant microorganisms. For ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae, Colistin is an alternative treatment only in the study area where carbapenems cannot be utilized.⁵⁵ A genotypic analysis of distinct families of beta-lactamase resistant genes may be required to build a complete picture of beta-lactamase resistance mechanisms in Gram-negative bacteria. As a result, local and national surveillance, as well as an international report on the spread of beta-lactamase-producing microbes, are necessary.

Citrobacter species, *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae* and *P. aeruginosa* were the most common Gram-negative ESBL producer's bacteria in this investigation. This is supported by various research in Africa,^{56,57} Indonesia⁵⁸ Algeria⁵⁹ and India⁴⁷ Uganda,⁶⁰ Nepal,³⁷ Brazil,⁶¹ Saudi Arabia⁶² and Mexico.³⁵ This could be because the bacteria are frequently exposed to a range of beta-lactams, prompting them to produce beta-lactamases. Furthermore, beta-lactamase enzymes, which are mediated by plasmid and chromosomal genes, produce antibiotic resistance.

The current study exhibited a higher prevalence of AmpC β -lactamase producers 33%. This corresponds to many research conducted in Saudi Arabia 32.5%,⁶² India 36.5%.⁶³ However, it was higher than research conducted in Saudi Arabia (5.5%).⁶⁴ The predominant bacteria that were AmpC β -lactamase producers *P. aeruginosa* (38.5%) followed by *K. pneumoniae* (33.3%) and *P. mirabilis* (3.3%). These findings suggest that regularly implementing infection control methods may contribute to limiting the spread of AmpC-lactamase-producing bacteria. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria could have an overwhelming number of efflux pumps on their surface. The combination of a beta-lactam antibiotic and a beta-lactamase inhibitor is a novel approach to treating bacterial beta-lactamases. There seem to be several combinations of the antagonist clavulanic acid, sulbactam, and tazobactam currently available.

In our investigation, the prevalence of Carbapenemase-resistance Gram-negative bacteria was 13.7%, which is comparable with the research conducted in Taiwan 15.4%,⁶⁵ Indonesia 13.7%,⁵⁸ Nepal 11.2%³⁷ and Romania⁶⁶ although our findings were lower than study done at Addis Ababa 36%⁶⁷ in Nigeria 34.5%,³⁰ India 34.5%⁴⁷ and 44.1%.⁶⁸ It was higher than the study conducted in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (5.2%),³¹ Addis Ababa Ethiopia (2%)³² and CDC reports from 1.2% (2001) to 4.2%.2011.⁶⁹ The most common Carbapenemase-producing bacteria in our study were *P. aeruginosa* (19.4%), *E. coli* 11.2% and *K. pneumoniae* (13.3%). A similar finding in Addis Ababa⁶⁷ and Tanzania⁷⁰ supports this, which accounts for the prevalence of carbapenemase-producing *E. coli* (14%), followed by *K. pneumoniae* (10.57%) had carbapenem resistance. For patients suspected of having carbapenem resistance, polymyxins are feasible initial treatment⁷¹ and alternatively combination treatment is also another option to treat carbapenem resistance.^{72,73} Differences in local antibiotic prescribing trends and infection control practices in different health facilities could also be to blame. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing must be done on a regular basis to detect multidrug-resistant bacteria. Precise identification of carbapenem-resistant bacterial pathogens is critical for patient treatment,⁷⁴ as well as for implementing suitable contamination control measures to prevent the pathogens from spreading quickly.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The prevalence of surgical sites associated with infection in the current study was 343 (89.32%). Among them, 203 (59.2%) were Gram-negative bacteria isolates. *S. aureus*, was predominantly followed by *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*. In general, Gram-positive bacteria showed high level of resistance for tetracycline and medium resistance for chloramphenicol and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, while Gram-positive isolates were susceptible to ciprofloxacin and cefotaxime, respectively, whereas the majority of isolated Gram-negative bacteria showed resistance rates for tetracycline, ampicillin and amoxicillin-clavulic acid. Rates of resistance of Gram-negatives against ceftazidime, tetracycline, trimethoprim-

sulfamethoxazole, chloramphenicol, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, cefotaxime, amikacin, ceftriaxone and gentamicin. Among Gram-negative bacteria, a relatively higher rate of MDR was seen in *Klebsiella spp*, *Pseudomonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Enterobacter* and *Citrobacter*. The predominant bacterial isolate was *K. pneumoniae*. *P. aeruginosa*, *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* were the most frequent ESBL and Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae. In the future, anaerobic bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms that can be sources of infections should be included in the prevalence and drug susceptibility pattern of surgical site infections, Empirical surgical site infection treatment might lead to antibiotic resistance and Selection of antibiotics should be based on the results of culture and sensitivity tests. There is a need for hospitals to encourage periodic reviews to do culture and sensitivity tests. Physicians and healthcare professionals provide education and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in order to control the ESBL and Carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative bacilli transmission in hospitals. Despite comprehensive specialized hospital practices in relation to preventing surgical site infections, the hospital-based data obtained from the regular surveillance should provide feedback to each ward on a regular basis. Treatment of surgical site infections has to be made based on the culture and susceptibility test results.

Limitation of the Study

Isolated Enterobacteriaceae were not subjected to a molecular assay for ESBL and Carbapenemase gene characterization. Even though it was beyond the scope of the study, healthy community members were not used as a control group.

Abbreviations

AMR, Antimicrobial Resistance; ATCC, American Type Cell Culture; Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute; BAP, Blood Agar Plate; CAP, Chocolate Agar Plate; MDR, Multidrug resistance; MHA, Muller Hilton Agar; SOPs, Standard Operating Procedures; SPSS, Statistical Package for Social Science.

Data Sharing Statement

Data supporting the conclusions of this article are within the manuscript.

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Disclosure

The authors state that they have no conflicts of interest in this work.

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