

# Detection Of Panton-Valentine Leukocidin Toxin Produced By Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus In Tonsillitis Patients At Basra Province/Iraq

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## Abstract

Panton-Valentine leukocidin (PVL) is a toxin composed of two components, LukS-PV and LukF-PV. The two components are formed just before the assembling into a pore-forming heptamer on the immune cell neutrophil membranes, causing the neutrophil to be lysis. In the present study, the aim is to molecularly identify MRSA and for producing PVL. A total of (4) MRSA isolate were obtained from tonsillitis patient from Assist.prof.SaadShakir Mahdi at University of Basra college of science, The percentage of PVL – positive was in only two isolates.

**Keywords:** MRSA,PVL,tonsillitis,Staphylococcus aureus

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## Introduction

Staphylococcus aureus is a pathogen that is carried on the human body normally. One of the most important species is Methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) which has a gene that made the isolate capable of resistance to methicillin and other beta-lactam antibiotics [1]. These bacteria consider a major health care problem, Staphylococcus aureus is one of the most frequent pathogens in the etiology of tonsillitis and its relevance is due to its antimicrobial resistance and persistence in the internal tissues of the tonsils [2]. S. aureus have been detected in both external and internal tissues of the tonsils [3]. MRSA was primarily recorded as nosocomial pathogen in human hospitals, [4] MRSA have important virulence factors that are Panton-Valentine leukocidin (PVL) which PVL was described by Panton and Valentine in 1932 [5]. PVL is composed of two major subunits Luk F – PV and Luk S – PV that can form pores at the polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMN) membrane [6]. The diagnosis protocol for MRSA/PVL-positive is using molecular detection by using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and nucleic acid hybridization kit to detect PVL gene [7].

## Materials and Methods

### Bacterial isolates

A total of 4 S. aureus isolates were obtained from tonsillitis patients by Assist.prof.SaadShakir Mahdi at the University of Basra college of science. The isolates were characterized morphologically to insure the presence of S. aureus by inoculated on a CHROM agar plate, the result was read after 24-48 hrs of incubation at 37°C the growth of colonies showing mauve color (pink to blue) coloration was considered to be positive Staphylococcus aureus [8].

## Genetic profiling

### DNA extraction:

The DNA was extracted by using the DNA Bacteria kit (Geneaid, Korea) according to the manufactures specifications.

### 16S rRNA gene PCR

The extracted DNA was amplified with specific primers with product size 756 bp according to Makgotlho et al., 2009 [9] to confirm the presence of MRSA. The GoTaqPromega master mix (Promega, USA) was used according to the manufactures specifications. (Staph 756F` 5`-AACTCTGTTATTAGGGAAGAACA-3` /Staph 750R 5`-CCACCTTCCTCCGGTTTGTCACC-3`) and PCR program was initial denaturation at 94c for 10 min and 35 cycles of denaturation at 94 c for 45sec., annealing at 55c for 45 sec. and extension at 72 c for 75 seconds and final extension was performed at 72c for 10 min. Amplified products electrophoresis in 1.5% agarose gel and visualized by using UV gel documentation system.

### PCR assay for detection of PVL

To confirm the presence of PVL in the isolates we used a specific primer according to (Makgotlho et al., 2009)

( pvl-Forward` 5-ATCATTAGGTAAAATGTCTGCACATGATCCA -3` and pvl-Reverse` 5-

GCATCAASTGTATTGGATAGCCAAAAGC -3`), and PCR program was:: initial denaturation at 95c for 5 min and 35 cycles of denaturation at 94 c for 1min., annealing at 51c for 1 min. and extension at 72 c for 1 min and final extension was performed at 72c for 10 min. Amplified products electrophoresis in 1% agarose gel and visualized by using UV gel documentation system.

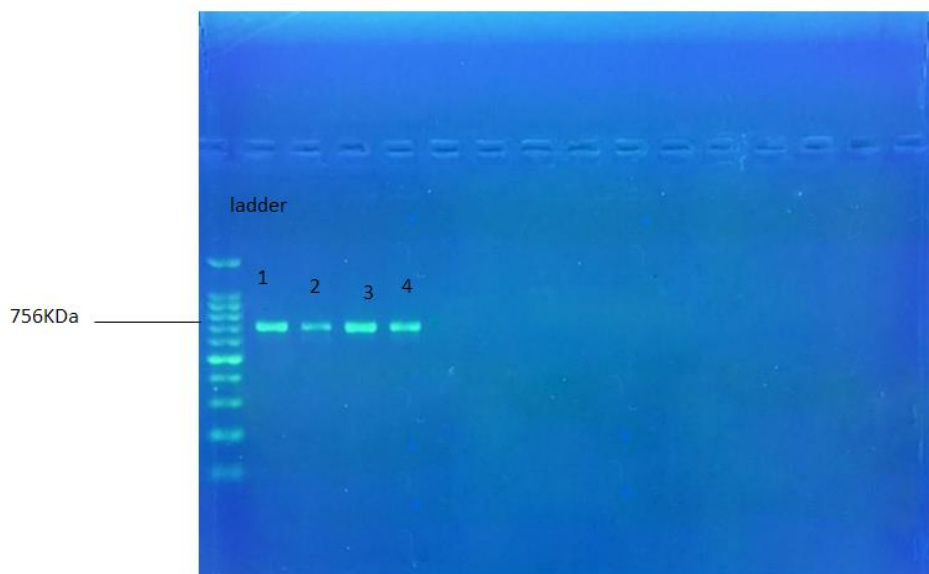
## Result

Gel migration results of the total DNA extract of Staphylococcus aureus Migration results of bacterial DNA shown in Figure (1) showed the appearance of the DNA strand bands extracted from the samples under study when migrated with agarose gel of 0.8% concentration using the ultraviolet imaging a device.



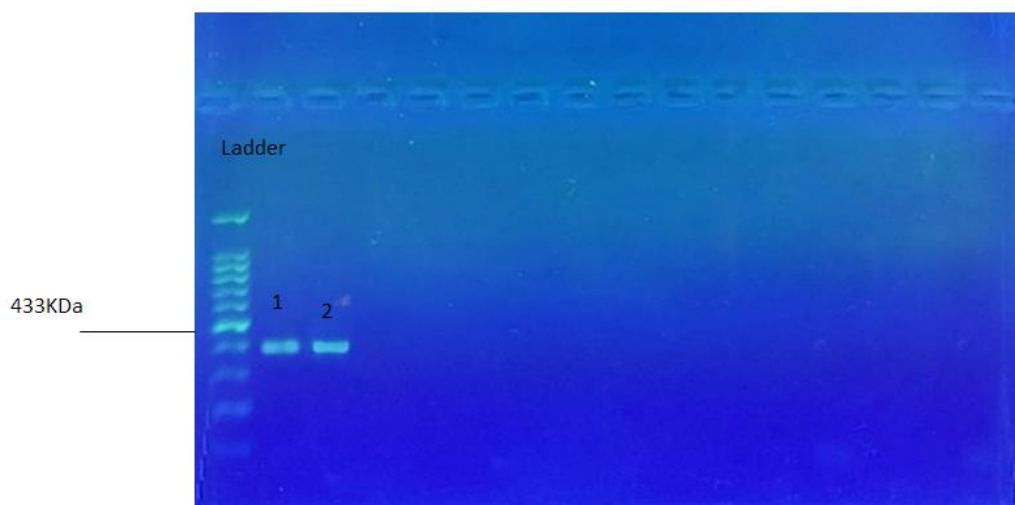
**Figure 1:** S.aureus DNA bands on agarose gel

Results of amplification of bacterial DNA extracted by polymerase chain reaction technique for the 16sRNA gene of Staphylococcus aureus. The results of amplification of the Universal 16s RNA gene for Staphylococcus aureus showed the appearance of bands at a molecular weight of 756 kDa when migrated with 1% agarose gel using a UV imager as shown in figure (2)



**figure (2)** Universal 16s RNA gene packages in 1% agarose gel using 1k ladder

All isolates of MRSA(4 isolates) were tested for the presence of pvl genes using Polymerase Chain Reaction assay. The results showed that only two of them are PVL-positive for tonsillitis patients as shown in figure( 3)



**figure 3:** The PVL gene was packaged at 433 kDa with 1% agarose gel using a 1k Lader

### DISCUSSION

All MRSA staphylococcus aureus isolates found in tonsillitis were tested for PVL production and together the result was 100% potent for two isolates only. It was found that the bacterial toxin has multiple pathological effects in the events of various diseases, as it was found that 4.6% of the samples taken from the skin and soft tissues contained PVL-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteria [10]. It also has a role in the events of necrotizing hemorrhagic pneumonia [11] and when it spreads in the lung tissue, it works to destroy it, and 75% of deaths were recorded due to PVL bacterial toxin [12]. PVL causes necrotizing pneumonia and sepsis when it spreads in the respiratory system [13], and the regions of western and central Africa are witnessing a sharp increase in the

spread of isolates of PVL-producing methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* [5] In a study, PVL-producing staphylococcus aureus was found in samples taken from tonsils with medium resistance to antibiotics, and two isolates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (3.3%) were found in the same samples. Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus (1.3%) out of 76 samples in patients with recurrent [2] Strains containing pvl genes increase disease severity, and potential adaptation in the hospital environment would lead to outbreaks of serious nosocomial infections. This perspective is of great importance in a country already suffering from high rates of infection due to multidrug-resistant organisms[14]The presence of PVL-producing staphylococcus aureus varies according to geographic regions and population distribution, as its distribution was found to vary by regions of the world 5% in France and in the United Kingdom 4.9% and 8.1% in Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh it is 14.3%[15][16].Lina et al. found that 50%-93% of *S. aureus* responsible for cutaneous abscess, cellulitis, or furunculosis and 85% of those responsible for community-acquired pneumonia harbored the genes encoding for PVL compared with none of those causing diseases such as nosocomial pneumonia, infective endocarditis, urinary tract infection, enterocolitis, or toxic-shock syndrome [15]. Gillet et al. found that 16 patients with community-acquired pneumonia attributable to PVL-positive *S. aureus* were younger (median age 14.8 years), had fewer underlying disorders, and had more often had influenza-like syndromes or furuncles than 36 patients with community-acquired pneumonia due to *S. aureus* without PVL genes. The patients in the first group also had a more severe disease course and 75% of them died; in the other group, 47% died [12]. Dufour et al. reported on 14 cases of community-acquired infections due to PVL-positive MRSA, suggesting the community emergence of a new

superadapted *S. aureus* strain [1].[17] in Iraq,reported frequency of 18 (100 %) were pvl positive,also study of [18]was shown present of pvl positive in 14(21.21%) isolates *Staphylococcus aureus* out of 150 clinical swabs sample.

### Conclusion

The presence of PVL-producing staphylococcus aureus in tonsils maybe play a very important marker for chronic tonsillitis and lose the ability to treat the inflammation only by tonsillectomy due to the antibiotic resistance

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