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Characterization of Carbapenemase-Producing *Klebsiella oxytoca* in Spain, 2016-2017

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28

29 **Abstract**

30 There is little information about carbapenemase-producing (CP) *Klebsiella oxytoca*, an
31 important nosocomial pathogen. We characterized CP *K. oxytoca* isolates collected from
32 different Spanish hospitals between January 2016 and October 2017.

33 During the study period, 139 unduplicated CP *K. oxytoca* isolates were identified; of
34 which 80 were studied in detail. Carbapenemase and ESBL genes were identified by
35 PCR and sequencing. Genetic relatedness was studied by PFGE. Whole genome
36 sequencing (WGS) carried out on 12 representative isolates was used to identify the
37 resistome, to elucidate the phylogeny and to determine the plasmids encoding
38 carbapenemase genes.

39 Forty-eight (60%) isolates produced VIM-1, 30 (37.5%) OXA-48, 3 (3.7%) KPC-2, 2
40 (2.5%) KPC-3 and one (1.2%) NDM-1; four isolates co-produced two carbapenemases.

41 By PFGE, 69 patterns were obtained from the 80 CP *K. oxytoca*, and four well-defined
42 clusters were detected: Cluster 1 consisted of 11 OXA-48-producing isolates, the other
43 three clusters included VIM-1-producing isolates (five, three and three isolates,
44 respectively). In the 12 sequenced isolates, the average number of acquired resistance
45 genes was significantly higher in VIM-1-producing isolates (10.8) than in OXA-48-
46 producing isolates (2.3). All 12 isolates had chromosomally-encoded genes of the
47 *bla*_{OXY-2} genotype and by MLST most belonged to ST2. Carbapenemase genes were
48 encoded on IncL, IncHI2, IncFII, IncN, IncC and IncP6 plasmid types.

49 The emergence of CP *K. oxytoca* was principally due to the ~~clonal and polyclonal~~
50 spread of VIM-1- and OXA-48-producing isolates encoded on IncL, IncHI2, IncFII and
51 IncN plasmids. The sequence type ST2 and the genotype *bla*_{OXY-2} predominated among
52 the 12 sequenced isolates.

53

54 **INTRODUCTION**

55 The prevalence of multidrug-resistant carbapenemase-producing
56 Enterobacteriaceae (CPE), a major public health threat, continues to increase on a global
57 level and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality (1). Frequently, patients
58 with CPE infections cannot be treated with effective antibiotics because of the dearth of
59 alternative drugs (2). Currently, the epidemiological situation regarding CPE in Spain is
60 considered “endemic”, mainly due to carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.
61 However, carbapenemase production is also increasing in other Enterobacteriaceae
62 species such as *Escherichia coli*, *Citrobacter* spp. *Enterobacter* spp. and *Serratia*
63 *marcescens* (3-5).

64 *Klebsiella oxytoca* has been recognised as an opportunistic pathogen causing
65 healthcare-associated infections such as urinary and respiratory tract infections, and
66 sepsis, primarily in immunocompromised and debilitated patients admitted to ICUs.
67 However, little information is available about carbapenemase-producing (CP) *K.*
68 *oxytoca*, since only a few individual cases or nosocomial outbreaks have been reported
69 (6-9).

70 The aim of this study was to gain insight into the microbiological features and
71 molecular epidemiology of CP *K. oxytoca* submitted to the Spanish National Reference
72 Laboratory for Antibiotic Resistance.

73

74 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

75 ***Bacterial isolates and carbapenemase types.***

76 Between January 2016 and September 2017, 139 unduplicated CP *K. oxytoca*
77 isolates, submitted from 22 hospitals located in 9 different Spanish provinces, were
78 identified (5.2% of the 2673 CPE identified by the reference laboratory during the same

79 period of time). Of them, 80 (57.5%) isolates were selected for further studies (Table
80 S1); this selection excluded 59 isolates obtained from rectal samples collected in three
81 hospitals with nosocomial outbreaks.

82 Sixty-one isolates produced clinical infections as follows: 28 (45.9%) urinary
83 tract infections, 11 bacteraemia (18%), 10 (16.4%) respiratory tract infections, 6 (9.8%)
84 wound infections and 6 (9.8%) abscesses. The patients infected with CP *K. oxytoca*
85 were mainly males (65.6%) aged 18 to 65 years (59%).

86 Of the 80 CP *K. oxytoca* isolates, 48 (60%) produced VIM-1; 30 (37.5%) OXA-
87 48; 3 (3.7%) KPC-2; 2 (2.5%) KPC-3, and one (1.2%) NDM-1; four isolates co-
88 produced two different carbapenemases: two VIM-1 plus KPC-2, one VIM-1 plus
89 OXA-48, and one VIM-1 plus KPC-3. The CarbaNP tests yielded positive results for all
90 80 CP isolates.

91 As previously described in other Enterobacteriaceae species such as *Citrobacter*
92 *freundii*, *Enterobacter* spp, and *Serratia marcescens* (3-5), VIM-1 was the most
93 frequent carbapenemase produced by CP *K. oxytoca* in this study. However, in *K.*
94 *pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli* the most frequent carbapenemases detected in Europe
95 are KPC, OXA-48 and NDM (2). Recently, the clonal spread of an IMP-8-producing *K.*
96 *oxytoca* clone was described in a Spanish hospital (9).

97 Five (6.25%) CP *K. oxytoca* also co-produced ESBLs as follows: two VIM-1
98 producing isolates (2.5%) also produced CTX-M-9 plus SHV-12; one VIM-1 and OXA-
99 48- and one OXA-48-producing isolates (2.5%) also produced CTX-M-9, and one VIM-
100 1 producing isolate (1.25%) also produced CTX-M-14. The NDM-1-producing *K.*
101 *oxytoca* co-produced the p-AmpC CMY-4.

102 ***Antibiotic susceptibility.***

103 Antibiotic susceptibility of all CP *K. oxytoca* isolates is detailed in Table 1 and
104 Table S2. In comparison with VIM-1 producing isolates, the OXA-48 producing
105 isolates were significantly more susceptible to gentamicin, tobramycin, cotrimoxazole,
106 cefotaxime and ceftazidime (P<0.05) (Table 1).

107 Susceptibility to carbapenems was 36.2% to meropenem, 11.2% to imipenem and
108 8.7% to ertapenem (Table 1); all isolates were non-susceptible to at least one
109 carbapenem antibiotic. These data suggest that ertapenem has the highest sensitivity for
110 the detection of CP *K. oxytoca*, although specificity could not be determined. However,
111 susceptibility to carbapenems highly varied in relation to the carbapenemase types as
112 follows: ertapenem, imipenem and meropenem susceptibility was 0%, 24.1% and
113 62.1%, respectively, in OXA-48 producers; and 15.9%, 4.5% and 25%, respectively, in
114 VIM-1 producers. These differences between carbapenemases have been previously
115 described in other species such as *Citrobacter freundii* and *Escherichia coli* (3,4).

116 Of the 28 OXA-48-producing isolates that were negative for other
117 carbapenemases, ESBLs or p-AmpCs, 11 were cefotaxime susceptible but 17 (60.7%)
118 were cefotaxime resistant. Overproduction of chromosomic OXY enzymes can result in
119 reduced susceptibility or resistance to penicillin/inhibitor combinations, cefuroxime,
120 cefotaxime and aztreonam, and has been classically observed in 10-20% of clinical
121 isolates of *K. oxytoca* (10).

122 Forty nine isolates (61.3%) were resistant to ceftazidime/avibactam, but all of
123 them produced metallo- β -lactamases. Only two isolates were colistin-resistant but were
124 negative for *mcr* genes. The most frequently described chromosomal resistance
125 mechanisms to colistin in *K. pneumoniae* are mutations caused by insertional
126 inactivation or deletion of the *mcrB* gene, upregulated transcription of *phoP*, *phoQ*, and
127 *pmrK* (which is part of the *pmrHFIIJKLM* operon) (11)

128 The percentages of susceptibility to ertapenem, imipenem and meropenem,
129 according to EUCAST breakpoints (12), significantly varied between VIM-1-producing
130 isolates (15.9%, 4.5% and 25%, respectively) and OXA-48-producing isolates (0%,
131 24.1% and 62.1%, respectively) ($P < 0.05$) (Table 1). However, all isolates had
132 meropenem MICs > 0.25 mg/L, and therefore would be suspected of producing
133 carbapenemases according to the screening cut-off values proposed by EUCAST (13).

134 ***Molecular epidemiology.***

135 PFGE analysis revealed a high degree of genetic diversity as 69 different PFGE
136 patterns were obtained from the 80 CP *K. oxytoca* analyzed (simple diversity index:
137 86.2%). However, four well-defined clusters with more than two isolates each were
138 detected considering a genetic linkage $\geq 85\%$ (Figure S1). The largest cluster (Cluster 1)
139 consisted of 11 OXA-48-producing isolates submitted from two hospitals (that sent nine
140 and two isolates, respectively) located in the same province. The other three clusters
141 consisted of five (Cluster 2), three (Cluster 3) and three (Cluster 4) VIM-1-producing
142 isolates, each of these clusters came from individual hospitals. In addition, five clusters
143 of two isolates each were also detected (Figure S1).

144 These PFGE results suggest polyclonal dissemination, since 46 of the 80 CP *K.*
145 *oxytoca* isolates showed non-related PFGE patterns. However, specific clonal
146 disseminations of CP *K. oxytoca* either within the same hospital or between different
147 close hospitals were detected.

148 ***Resistome of CP K. oxytoca as determined by WGS analysis.***

149 WGS was performed on 12 selected isolates representing: i) the four main
150 clusters detected by PFGE (five isolates), ii) the clusters formed by pairs of isolates
151 (four isolates), and iii) three singular isolates: one producing NDM-1, one producing
152 VIM-1 plus KPC-2, and one producing VIM-1 plus KPC-3. According to PFGE results,

153 these 12 isolates are representative of 33 of the 80 isolates studied (11 isolates of
154 Cluster 1, 5 of Cluster 2, 3 of Cluster 3 and 3 of Cluster 4, four couples and three
155 individual isolates). The sequences are available in the ENA web with the accession
156 number PRJEB30102.

157 In the 12 sequenced isolates, the average number of acquired resistance genes
158 was 9.2 (range 1-16), being much higher in the 5 VIM-1 isolates (average 10.8, range 6-
159 15) than in the three OXA-48 isolates (average 2.3, range 1-3). A summary of the main
160 antibiotic resistance genes detected is listed in Table 2. The isolate with the highest
161 number of acquired resistance genes (n=16) was the NDM-1-producing *K. oxytoca*
162 which had several genes encoding resistance to β -lactams, aminoglycosides,
163 sulfonamides, quinolones, chloramphenicol, macrolides, rifampicin, tetracycline and
164 trimethoprim; in addition, this isolate encodes the methyl transferase gene *armA*, which
165 is of special relevance since it confers high resistance levels to all clinically important
166 aminoglycosides (14). ArmA has been associated with *K. oxytoca* in Japan and China
167 (15,16); however only sporadic cases of ArmA have been described in
168 Enterobacteriaceae in Spain, mainly obtained from animals (17,18), but none of them
169 from *K. oxytoca*. Association of *bla*_{NDM-1} and *armA* genes in the same plasmid has been
170 previously described (19).

171 In addition to carbapenemase genes, the most predominant acquired resistance
172 genes were: *aadA1* (91.7%), *aac(6')-Ib* (75%), *sul1* (75%) and *catB2* (66.7%).

173 Concerning the chromosomal *bla*_{OXY} genes, all 12 isolates had the *bla*_{OXY-2}
174 genotype, with three variants detected: *bla*_{OXY-2-8} (n=5), *bla*_{OXY-2-2} (n=4), and *bla*_{OXY-2-5}
175 (n= 3) (Table 2). Eight different types of OXY enzymes have been described (10,20).
176 Of the 68 isolates demonstrating non-susceptibility to 3rd generation cephalosporins
177 obtained from 14 hospitals across Europe (10), 42 (61.8%) belonged to phylogroup

178 KoII, which includes isolates of the OXY-2 type (20). Interestingly, in this study KoII
179 isolates were frequently OXY hyperproducers.

180 ***Phylogenetic analysis of carbapenem-producing Klebsiella oxytoca by MLST***
181 ***and core genome MLST***

182 The 12 sequenced isolates belonged to the following MLST types: ST2 (n=5),
183 ST36 (n=3), ST176 (n=2), ST20 (n=1), and ST141 (n=1) (Table 2, Figure 1). Of the 12
184 isolates, eight (66.7%) had STs belonging to the clonal complex 2 (CC2): ST2, ST176
185 (DLV of ST2) and ST141 (DLV of ST2). CC2 has been previously described as the
186 most frequent clonal complex in *K. oxytoca* (10,21).

187 Genome assemblies of the 12 *K. oxytoca* isolates were analyzed using a gene-by-
188 gene approach (22), and the allelic distance from cgMLST was visualized in a minimum
189 spanning tree (Figure 1). Additionally, study of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs)
190 was performed as described in methodology (Figure S2). ST2 isolates differed by an
191 average of 56 alleles (range 15 to 88) and 288 SNPs (range 35 to 448); in ST36 isolates
192 these differences were 139 alleles (range 48 to 188) and 1013 SNPs (range 120 to 1495),
193 and in ST176 isolates were 134 alleles and 403 SNPs. The most prevalent cgMLST
194 clusters ST2, ST136 and ST176 included isolates producing different carbapenemase
195 types (Figure 1).

196 ***Characterization of plasmids harbouring carbapenemases genes***

197 In 11 of the 12 *K. oxytoca* isolates (Table 2), the PlasmidID mapping tool was
198 used for the identification and reconstruction of 13 plasmids harbouring carbapenemase
199 genes (seven carrying *bla*_{VIM-1}, three *bla*_{OXA-48}, two *bla*_{KPC} and one *bla*_{NDM-1}). In the
200 remaining isolate plasmids reconstruction failed.

201 In the three isolates producing class D carbapenemases, *bla*_{OXA-48} was encoded in
202 IncL plasmids, one of ~63 kb (two isolates), almost identical to plasmid pOXA-48

203 NZ_CP018342.1 (average identity > 95% and coverage percentage of 99.8%) (Figure
204 S3), and another of ~48 kb (one isolate), highly similar to plasmid NZ_CP018694.1
205 (average identity > 95% and coverage percentage of 94.3%), reconstructed with a low
206 number of contigs (8, 7 and 3 respectively) (Table 2). In all three isolates, *bla*_{OXA-48} was
207 flanked by *IS1999* sequences. In the two isolates within Cluster 1/ST2 (Figure 1),
208 *bla*_{OXA-48} was located in a *Tn1999.2* (Figure S3), and in the ST141 isolate *bla*_{OXA-48} was
209 located in a *Tn1999.3*.

210 In VIM-1-producing isolates, four different plasmid types encoding *bla*_{VIM-1}
211 were identified as follows (Table 2): one IncL plasmid of ~70 kb identical to
212 NZ_CP023419.1 in three isolates (Figure S4); one IncHI2 plasmid of ~250 kb in two
213 isolates, very similar to plasmid NZ_CP026661.1 (average identity > 95% and coverage
214 percentage of 81.8%) (Figure S5), one IncN plasmid of ~50 kb in one isolate, very
215 similar to plasmid NC_014208.1 (average identity > 95% and coverage percentage of
216 90.96%); and one IncFII plasmid of ~70 kb in one isolate, similar to plasmid
217 NZ_CP023419.1 (average identity > 95% and coverage percentage of 86.4%).

218 In Greece, a multiclonal epidemic of VIM-1-producing *K. pneumoniae* mainly
219 due to the spread IncN plasmids between 50-70 kb was described (23). A conjugative
220 IncHI2 plasmid of ~300 kb has previously been associated with the dissemination of
221 *bla*_{VIM-1} among genetically diverse *Enterobacter cloacae* isolates (24). We identified
222 two different genetic environments for *bla*_{VIM-1}; in IncN, IncL and IncFII plasmids,
223 *bla*_{VIM-1} was located in the In624 class 1 integron (24,25) (Figure S4); in IncHI2
224 plasmids, VIM-1 was linked to another similar class 1 integron that was previously
225 described (26) (Figure S5). In Spain, In624 has been described in VIM-producing *E.*
226 *cloacae* (24) and *C. freundii* (25), suggesting an important role in the interspecies
227 transfer of *bla*_{VIM-1}.

228 Two plasmids encoding *bla*_{KPC} were identified (Table 2). One of them was an
229 IncP6 plasmid of ~39 kb identical to NZ_CP026224.1 with *bla*_{KPC-2} as the sole
230 antimicrobial resistance gene in the plasmid (Figure S6). The genetic environment of
231 the *bla*_{KPC-2} gene included an ISKpn27 and a truncated *bla*_{TEM-1} (Figure S6), and was the
232 same as previously detected in the first IncP6 plasmid carrying *bla*_{KPC-2} in *K. oxytoca*
233 (6). The other one was an IncFIB plasmid of ~103 kb, similar to plasmid
234 NZ_CP015395.1 (average identity > 95% and coverage percentage of 88.36% bp), that
235 harbours *bla*_{KPC-3} in the classical transposon Tn4401 isoform (27,28), *bla*_{TEM-1A} and
236 *bla*_{OXA-9} (Figure S7).

237 In the NDM-1-producing isolate, *bla*_{NDM-1} was encoded in an IncC plasmid of
238 ~154 kb, similar to plasmid NZ_CP029118.1 (average identity > 95% and coverage
239 percentage of 82.18%) (Table 2, Figure 2); the genetic environment of *bla*_{NDM-1}
240 included the IS*AbaI25* composite transposon Tn*I25* (Figure 2), previously described in
241 pM214_A/C2 (29). Additionally, a class 1 integron located adjacent to Tn*I25* contained
242 several genes associated with resistance to trimethoprim (*dfrA14*), rifamycins (*arr-2*),
243 chloramphenicol (*clmA5* codifying efflux MFS transporter), β-lactams (*bla*_{OXA-10}),
244 aminoglycosides (*aadA1*), and sulphonamides (*sul1*) (Table 2, Figure 2). This IncC
245 plasmid also contained the *armA*, *bla*_{CMY-4} and *msrE/mphE* genes coding resistance to
246 aminoglycosides, β-lactams and macrolides, respectively. The *bla*_{CMY-4} gene was
247 included in an *ISEcp1* transposition unit (Figure 2), which is usually found in A/C
248 plasmids, and thought to be responsible for the dissemination of the *bla*_{CMY}
249 cephalosporinase genes (30).

250

251 **CONCLUSIONS**

252 We observed the progressive emergence of CP *K. oxytoca* in Spain. Our data reveal
253 several remarkable findings of concern that deserve active surveillance: (i) clonal and
254 mainly polyclonal spread of CP *K. oxytoca* across different geographical areas and
255 hospitals; (ii) production of five different carbapenemase types, mainly VIM-1 and
256 OXA-48, but also KPC and NDM; (iii) identification of a NDM-1-producing isolate
257 presenting a high load of antibiotic resistance genes including *amrA*; iv) predominance
258 of ST2 and OXY-2 among the studied isolates; v) detection of the plasmid types IncL,
259 IncHI2, IncFIB, IncN, IncC, and IncP6, likely responsible of the dissemination of
260 carbapenemase genes in *K. oxytoca* in Spain.

261

262 MATERIAL AND METHODS

263 *Study design and bacterial isolates.*

264 This study was performed by the unrestricted and non-mandatory national
265 Spanish Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Programme operated by our official public
266 health Institute (Instituto de Salud Carlos III) (3,4). The number of carbapenemase-
267 producing *K. oxytoca* isolates referred to this program experienced a constant increase
268 from 2012 (n = 6) (31) to 2015 (n = 35), although its proportion with respect to the total
269 number of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae isolates remained stable
270 around 2-3%. The observation of an unexpected increase in this proportion in 2016
271 (5.2%) prompted the present investigation. In this study, we included all CP *K. oxytoca*
272 isolates submitted to our reference laboratory between January 2016 and October 2017;
273 during this period a total of 119 public hospitals (about 35% of Spanish public
274 hospitals) voluntarily participated in the surveillance program.

275 Only the first isolate per patient was analyzed. Bacterial isolate identification
276 was performed using API20E (BioMérieux) and matrix-assisted laser

277 desorption/ionisation time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF/MS) (Bruker
278 Daltonik GmbH, Leipzig, Germany).

279 ***Antibiotic susceptibility of CP *K. oxytoca* and phenotypic characterization of***
280 ***carbapenemase production.***

281 Antibiotic susceptibility testing was performed by microdilution (DKMGN
282 panel, Thermo Fisher Scientific, East Grinstead, UK) and interpreted according to
283 EUCAST breakpoints (12,13). Susceptibility to colistin was carried out by the in-house
284 microdilution method following the recommendations of the CLSI-EUCAST joint
285 polymyxins working group (32). According to EUCAST (13), inhibition of
286 carbapenemase activity was determined by using EDTA, phenyl-boronic acid and
287 cloxacillin. In addition, all the isolates were tested by the Carba NP method (33).

288 ***Characterization of resistance mechanisms.***

289 The presence of genes encoding carbapenemases (*bla*_{OXA-48}, *bla*_{KPC}, *bla*_{VIM},
290 *bla*_{IMP} and *bla*_{NDM}), extended spectrum β -lactamases (*bla*_{CTX-M}, *bla*_{SHV}, and *bla*_{TEM}),
291 plasmid mediated AmpC β -lactamases (p-AmpC) (*bla*_{CMY}, *bla*_{DHA}, *bla*_{MOX}, *bla*_{ACC},
292 *bla*_{EBC} and *bla*_{FOX}) and *mcr* genes coding for colistin resistance were identified using
293 PCR and DNA sequencing as previously described (31,34-36).

294 ***Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis.***

295 The genetic relationship between the CP *K. oxytoca* isolates was elucidated by
296 PFGE after total chromosomal DNA digestion with *Xba*I (34). A simple diversity index
297 (SDI) was calculated in order to determine the population diversity as follows: number
298 of different PFGE profiles/total number of isolates \times 100 (37).

299 ***Whole genome sequencing (WGS), resistome and core genome MLST analysis.***

300 WGS was performed on 12 isolates representative of the main CP *K. oxytoca*
301 clusters previously detected by PFGE, and also in two additional isolates coproducing
302 two carbapenemase types each.

303 DNA was extracted using the QIAamp® DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen®, Hilden,
304 Germany). Genomic DNA paired-end libraries were generated using the Nextera XT
305 DNA sample preparation kit (Illumina Inc, San Diego, CA, USA). The libraries were
306 sequenced using the Illumina NextSeq 500 sequencer system with 2 x 150-bp paired-
307 end reads (Illumina Inc).

308 The quality of the high-throughput sequence data was assessed by FastQC and
309 short reads were subsequently assembled de novo into contigs using SPAdes 3.9.0 (38)
310 testing 5 different kmers under parameters optimized to give the best assembly using
311 QUAST (<http://quast.bioinf.spbau.ru/>) in order to analyze the most relevant statistics
312 (largest contig, N50 and NG50). Scaffolding was performed with SSPACE (39) and
313 GapFiller was used to close sequence gaps (40). Automatic de novo annotation of draft
314 genomes was performed using Prokka version 1.12-beta (41).

315 Antimicrobial resistance genes were analyzed using ResFindertool (CGE server:
316 <https://cge.cbs.dtu.dk>) (June 2018, date last accessed) with an ID threshold of 98% with
317 the exception of β -lactamase variants, which were determined with 100% identity.
318 Additionally SRST2 (42) was used to detect resistance genes and alleles with ARGannot
319 database (43).

320 A core genome multilocus sequence typing (cgMLST) was applied; an ad hoc
321 scheme was created using the MLST+ target definer with the default parameters and a
322 reference sequence (*K. oxytoca* KONIH1, accession number NZ_CP008788.1). A total
323 of 13 NCBI RefSeq genomes were used as query genomes to validate in a pairwise
324 comparison using BLAST. The final cgMLST scheme consisted of 3201 target genes

325 and 2380 accessory genes. The percentage of good targets included for distance
326 calculation was 94% (Table S3). A distance matrix among all isolates was calculated
327 with 3013 target genes to analyze the homology within each cluster, genes with missing
328 values were excluded (Table S4).

329 Curated Illumina sequence reads were mapped onto the reference sequence (*K.*
330 *oxytoca* KONIH1, accession number NZ_CP008788.1) and putative SNPs were
331 obtained using the Lasergene Genomics Suite Software (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, WI,
332 USA) as described (44)

333 *Characterization of plasmids carrying carbapenemases genes*

334 In order to reconstruct the plasmids carrying the carbapenemase genes, an in
335 house script (Plasmid ID, <https://github.com/BU-ISCHII/plasmidID>) was used to: 1) map
336 reads over a plasmid curated database to find those with the higher coverage and de
337 novo assembly of these reads, 2) make local alignments to localize resistance and
338 replicative genes, and 3) make a graphic representation of the plasmids identified (45)

339 *Statistical analysis.*

340 Differences in the prevalence of antibiotic susceptibility of OXA-48- and VIM-
341 1-producing isolates were assessed using Fisher's exact test. The null hypothesis was
342 rejected when a P values ≤ 0.05 was calculated. Statistical analysis was performed using
343 the GraphPad Prism software, version 3.02 (GraphPad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA,
344 USA).

345

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383

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385 None to declare.

386

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563
564

565 **Table 1.** Antibiotic susceptibility of 80 carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella oxytoca*
 566 isolates as determined by the microdilution method according to EUCAST clinical
 567 breakpoints (reference 12)

568

Antibiotics	S (%) Total isolates (n=80)	S (%) VIM-1 isolates (n=44)	S (%) OXA-48 isolates (n=29)	MIC ₅₀ ^a Total isolates	MIC ₉₀ ^a Total isolates	Range ^a Total isolates
Colistin	97.5	95.5	100	0.5	1	0.5 - >8
Amikacin	86.2	81.8	96.5	4	16	4 - >32
Gentamicin	60	34.1	96.5	0.5	>8	≤2 - >8
Aztreonam	40	47.7	37.9	>32	>32	≤0.5->32
Cef/Avi	38.7	0	100	>16	>16	≤0.5->16
Tobramycin	38.7	4.5	89.6	8	>8	≤2 - >8
Meropenem	36.2	25	62.1	4	>16	0.5 - >16
Cotrimoxazole	35	6.8	79.3	>8	>8	≤1 - >8
Tigecycline	21.2	22.7	17.2	1	4	0.5 - 4
Ciprofloxacin	18.7	22.7	17.2	>2	>2	≤0.06 - >2
Imipenem	11.2	4.5	24.1	8	>16	1 - >16
Ceftazidime	11.25	0	31	>16	>16	≤1->16
Ertapenem	8.7	15.9	0	>2	>2	≤0.5->2
Cefotaxime	3.7	0	10.3	>8	>8	≤1->8
Pip/taz	0	0	0	>32/4	>32/4	>32/4
Amox/clav	0	0	0	>64/2	>64/2	>64/2- >64/2

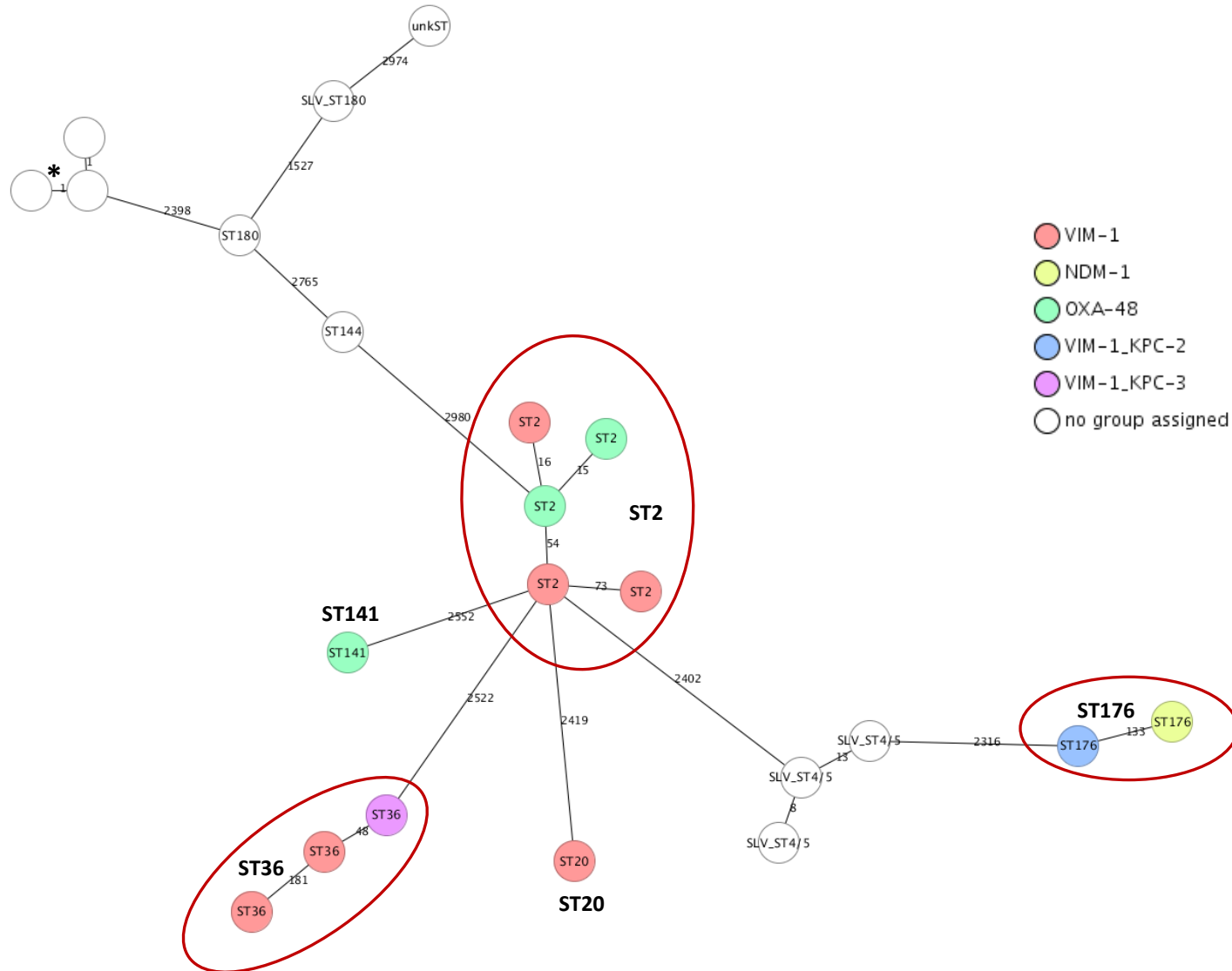
569

570 S: susceptibility. MIC: minimum inhibitory concentrations. Cef/Avi:
 571 Ceftazidime/Avibactam. Pip/taz: Piperacillin/tazobactam. Amox/Clav:
 572 Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid

573 ^a Expressed in mg/L.

574

575 **Figure 1.** Minimum spanning tree of 12 representative carbapenemase-producing *K. oxytoca* isolates (colored circles). Distance based on *an ad*
576 *hoc cgMLST* of 3201 genes using the parameters “pairwise ignoring missing values” and all the *K. oxytoca* reference sequences available in
577 NCBI. Each circle is named with the MLST type and colors indicate carbapenemase types; white circles represent control isolates available in
578 NCBI (n=7) or representative of OXA-48-producing *K. oxytoca* outbreak from Tunisia (n=3, unpublished data*).
579



580 **Table 2.** Whole genome sequencing of 12 representative carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella oxytoca* isolates: Main antibiotic resistance genes
 581 and other molecular markers detected.

Isolate	PFGE/ ST	Carbapene mase genes	Plasmids carrying carbapenemase s genes	<i>bla</i> _{OXY}	Other <i>bla</i> genes	<i>aadA</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	<i>arm</i>	<i>ant(2'')-Ia</i>	<i>sul</i>	<i>dhfr</i>	<i>qnr</i>	<i>cat</i>	<i>tet</i>	<i>msr/mph</i>
K7533	C1/ST2	<i>bla</i> _{OXA-48}	IncL, ~ 63 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-8}	N	<i>aadA1</i>	ND	N	N	ND	<i>dfrA1</i>	N	N	N	N
K0100	C1/ST2	<i>bla</i> _{OXA-48}	IncL, ~ 63 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-8}	N	<i>aadA1</i>	ND	N	N	ND	<i>dfrA1</i>	N	N	N	N
K9103	C2/ST36	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1}	IncHI2, ~ 250 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-2}	N	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i> <i>sul2</i>	<i>dfrA1</i> <i>dfrB1</i>	N	<i>catA1</i> <i>catB2</i>	N	<i>msrE</i> <i>mphE</i>
K9635	C3/ST2	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1}	IncL, ~ 70 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-8}	N	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrA1</i> <i>dfrB1</i>	N	<i>catA1</i> <i>catB2</i>	N	N
K9599	C4/ST36	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1}	IncFII, ~70 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-2}	<i>bla</i> _{TEM-1A}	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrB1</i>	N	<i>catB2</i>	N	N
K8025	Couple/S T20	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1}	IncL, ~ 70 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-5}	N	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrB1</i>	N	<i>catA1</i> <i>catB2</i>	N	<i>msrE</i> <i>mphE</i>
K8021	Couple/S T2	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1}	IncHI2, ~ 250 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-8}	<i>bla</i> _{CTX-M-9} <i>bla</i> _{SHV-12}	<i>aadA1</i> <i>aadA2</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	<i>ant(2'')-Ia</i>	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrA1</i> <i>dfrA16</i> <i>dfrB1</i>	<i>qnrA1</i>	<i>catA1</i> <i>catB2</i>	<i>tetA</i>	N
K7929	Couple/S T141	<i>bla</i> _{OXA-48}	IncL, ~ 48 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-2}	N	ND	ND	N	N	N	ND	N	N	N	<i>msrE</i> <i>mphE</i>
K8792	Couple/S T2	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1}	ND	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-8}	N	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrA1</i> <i>dfrB1</i>	N	<i>catB2</i>	N	N
K9534	NR/ST3 6	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1} <i>bla</i> _{KPC-3}	IncN, ~50 kb IncFIB, ~103 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-2}	<i>bla</i> _{TEM-1A} <i>bla</i> _{OXA-9}	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrA14</i> <i>dfrB1</i>	<i>qnrS1</i>	<i>catA1</i> <i>catB2</i>	N	N
K9455	NR/ST1 76	<i>bla</i> _{NDM-1}	IncC, ~154 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-5}	<i>bla</i> _{OXA-10} <i>bla</i> _{CMY-4}	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	<i>arm</i> <i>A</i>	N	<i>sul1</i> <i>sul2</i>	<i>dfrA14</i>	<i>qnrB3</i> <i>2</i>	N	<i>tetA</i>	<i>msrE</i> <i>mphE</i>
K9682	NR/ST1 76	<i>bla</i> _{VIM-1} <i>bla</i> _{KPC-2}	IncL, ~70 kb IncP6, ~39 kb	<i>bla</i> _{OXY-2-5}	<i>bla</i> _{TEM-1A}	<i>aadA1</i>	<i>aac(6')Ib</i>	N	N	<i>sul1</i>	<i>dfrB1</i>	N	<i>catA1</i> <i>catB2</i>	N	N

582 C1, C2, C3, and C4: Representative isolates from PFGE Cluster 1, 2, 3, 4, respectively. Couple: Representative isolates of PFGE clusters of only

583 two isolates. NR: Isolates Non-Related by PFGE to any other isolate.

584 ND: Non-determined. N: Negative.

