

The Importance of PFGE and Rapd Methods in Determination of Phylogenetic Relation among *E. Coli* Sustains Isolated from Extraintestinal Infection and whose Virulence Factors are Defined

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Abstract

In this study, 155 *Escherichia coli* strains were isolated to investigate the association between PFGE and RAPD. The freeze-thaw method was applied for RAPD. The results showed PFGE had a higher discrimination power than RAPD-PCR. With the both methods just 13 (30.9%) samples showed clonal relation, the relation might be a random mutation rather than epidemic since the strains were isolated from the in-patient of different clinics. The study concluded that RAPD method is more advantageous than PFGE method in terms of the phylotyping and interpretation of obtained results.

Keywords: *E. coli*, Freeze-thaw, Random mutation, PFGE method, Phylotyping

INTRODUCTION

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is the commonest member of the Gram-negative bacteria family of Enterobacteriaceae, which was identified by Theodor Escherich. [1,11] This non-spore forming and generally motile (with a peritrichous flagellated arrangement), facultative anaerobic rod-shaped bacteria were named *E. coli* by the suggestion of Castellani and Chalmers in 1919 [2, 3, 4]. There are a diversity of *E. coli* strains, which are divided into commensal types (intra-intestinal non-pathogenic strains) and pathotypes (intra-intestinal pathogenic *E. coli* (InPEC) and extra-intestinal pathogenic *E. coli* (ExPEC)). The commensal types of *E. coli* are able to be settled within the infants' alimentary canal, just in few hours after birth as beneficial normal microbial population [5, 6].

ExPEC strains are gram-negative bacteria, which are isolated from urinary tract infections (UTI),

newborn meningitis, sepsis, hospital-based pneumonia, osteomyelitis and the likes, are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity [7,8].

In this study, we aimed to determine the effectiveness of RAPD and PFGE methods in order to shed lights into epidemiologic studies. The study was designed to find whether special genotypes are mutated or random mutations bring about the virulence characteristics of ExPEC strains. If this mutation can change the genes to pathogenic in gut microbiota, even though they are commensal in the intestinal system [9,10].

MATERIAL & METHODS

A hundred fifty-five *E. coli* strains obtained from the Central Laboratory of Cukurova University were used in this study. The freeze-thaw method was used to extract test strains. The strains were verified with the amplification of genes fragment coding beta-

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D-Glukorinidaz enzymes. DNAs were used for the amplification of genes zones coding CNF-1, 2, 3 and CDT-1, 2, 3, 4 toxin genes, which are the characteristic of ExPEC. In order to find the relation between the isolates, Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis and Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA method, which was taught to be an alternative with OPA-9 (10 and 11 dimers) and OPA-11 primers in terms of repeatability, cost and time were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

PFGE analysis with XbaI Restriction Enzymes revealed that isolates were scattered in 106 big clusters. The

highest of which consisted of 5 members according to 80% similarity level. They were scattered in 128 big clusters. The highest consisted of 3 members to 85% level. RAPD method showed 95 clusters primary with 11bp OPA-9 to 85 similarity level. It was also identified that 42 (27,09%) of the test similarly scattered in main clusters and subclusters and that 25 of them placed in subcluster and 17 of them placed in single-member clusters. A real relation between only 13 (30,9%) of the 42 ExPEC strains in single-member

Cluster obtained with both groups was determined. Isolated samples of these strains were from different clinics. Figure (1).

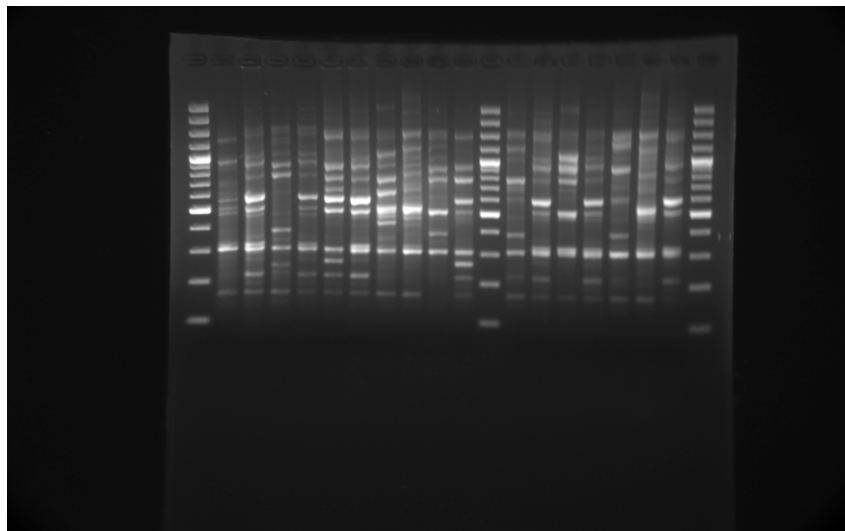


Figure 1. Band profiles of RAPD-PCR methods, In similar strains and same primer regions target linked amplification, bands are formed in the same place so there are many bands as in PFGE, dendrogram is created using UPGMA

CONCLUSIONS

PGFE showed higher discrimination power than RAPD-PCR. With both methods just 13 (30,9%) samples were showing clonal relation, but the relation might be a random mutation rather than epidemic since the strains were isolated from the inpatient from different clinics. ExPEC strains come out when a deletion-recombination occurs among *E. coli* strains with certain zones open to mutation.

Finally, RAPD method is more advantageous than PFGE method in terms of the phylotyping and interpretation of the results.

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