CTX-M-27–Producing *Escherichia coli* of Sequence Type 131 and Clade C1-M27, France

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To the Editor: We read with great interest the Matsumura et al. paper describing extended-spectrum β-lactamase (ESBL) CTX-M-27–producing *Escherichia coli* of sequence type (ST) 131 clonal group, an emerging clade called C1-M27 (*1*). ST131 *E. coli* having $bla_{\text{CTX-M-27}}$ has been described in several countries. We observed an alarming increase of this clonal group in the fecal carriage of children in France (0% in 2010 to 65% in 2015 among ESBL-producing ST131 *E. coli*) (*2*).

We wondered whether this clonal group's expansion in France was attributable to the same clade (C1-M27). For that, we designed primers (M27PP1-B-F, 5′-TTACTCC-GACTATGCGTTCAC-3′; M27PP1-B-R, 5′-CAAACTT-GCCCCTGATAGCG-3′; amplicon length, 1.5 kb) to amplify the insertion site of the structure comprising the direct repeat and prophage-like genomic island of *E. coli* PCN033, as previously described (*1*). PCR was performed on our recently described collection of 39 ESBL-producing ST131 *E. coli*, including 16 CTX-M-27–producing *E. coli*: 13 of subgroup O25b with *fimH*30 allele and 3 of O16 subgroup with *fimH*41 allele (*2*). Results showed that 81% (13/16) of the CTX-M-27–producing *E. coli* ST131 had the M27PP1 structure, similar to strain PCN033, and thus belong to the C1-M27 clade. Therefore, the C1-M27 clade found in Asia and America is also present in Europe in the fecal flora of young children. The 3 isolates belonging to the O16 subgroup with *fimH*41 lacked M27PP1, suggesting that $bla_{\text{CTX-M-27}}$ might diffuse among non-H30 ST131 *E. coli* without this prophage-like genomic island. Finally, the non–CTX-M-27–producing ST131 *E. coli* of our collection were negative for M27PP1 elements.

Our results show that CTX-M-27–producing *E. coli* ST131 subgroup O25b with *fimH*30 allele (one third of the ESBL-producing ST131 carriage isolates) isolated from children in France belong to C1-M27 and that CTX-M-27–producing O16 strains display distinct genetic characteristics. Altogether, our data confirm the worldwide distribution of C1-M27 and its high prevalence in children in France.

References

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Antimicrobial Drug Resistance among Refugees from Syria, Jordan

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To the Editor: The Kassem et al. article regarding high rates of multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria colonizing Syrian children highlights the challenge of choosing empiric antimicrobial drugs to treat war-injured refugees from Syria (*1*). The findings mirror other reports (*2,3*) and our own experience in a charitable hospital in Amman, Jordan, which manages war-injured refugees from Syria. As part of a program of antimicrobial drug stewardship and infection prevention and control, empiric antimicrobial drug protocols were introduced. For antimicrobial