



Panton-valentine leukocidin (pvl) gene prevalence among methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from oral infection in Basrah Governoratel-Basrah, Iraq

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Abstract:

Panton and Valentine classified PVL as a synergy-menotropic poison virulence factor in 1932. The pvl is a synergy-homeotropic toxin that is made up of two distinct components that work together on the cellular membrane. The lukS-PV and lukF-PV mediated genes, which have been utilized in epidemiological research to diagnose and track the prevalence of Panton-Valentine, generate the toxin. Leukocytes are the main cellular targets of PVL. The PVL protein interacts with complement receptors on the membranous surfaces of these cells, causing the cells to deteriorate. The toxin stimulates neutrophils to produce proinflammatory cytokines and is a major pathogen of infections.

Background:

Staphylococcus aureus isolates that are positive for Valentine leucocidin (pvl) are becoming more linked to many types of infections.

Methods:

One hundred and fifty swab samples were collected from patients with dental infections who attended a health center in Al-Basrah, Iraq. The blood agar and mannitol salt agar, as well as coagulation testing, were used to identify *S. aureus* isolates. Vitek[®]2 technique to confirm the identification of isolates. Oxacillin and cefoxitin discs were followed for identification of the methicillin-resistant isolates. The polymerase chain reaction technique was used to detect PVL and *mec A* genes.

Results:

Out of one hundred and fifty swab samples the 15 isolates (15.8%) were identified as *S. aureus*. All (n=15) *S. aureus* isolates were categorized as MRSA depending on the criteria of inhibitory resistance against oxacillin and cefoxitin disc. Furthermore, all isolates were shown a positive result for the *pvl* and *mecA* gene.

Conclusion: The PCR investigation was successful and the best methods can be used in identifying the *pvl* and *mecA* genes. The study present showed ower rate of *S. aureus* infections of the oral cavity.

Introduction:

There are many types of oral infections that can occur in a patient's mouth. Because of the moisture, warmth, and nutritional content (fats, carbohydrates, and protein), the mouth cavity serves as a growing substrate for pathogens. The *Staphylococcus aureus* is an opportunist and can be considered pathogen a commensal bacteria in the oral cavity that causes systemic infections and oral infections in the human being as an body (Akwa *et al.*, 2020). Many oral illnesses are caused by *S. aureus*. Treatment of *Staphylococcus aureus* infection of complicated due to the increase of rate of resistance to many categories of antibiotic including methicillin antibiotics (ADIL GHALIB FADIL, 2016; Tong *et al.*, 2015). The spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), is a known health concern and financial burden worldwide (Al Bshabshe *et al.*, 2020).

According to genetic data, methicillin resistance is attributed to *mecA*. The *mecA* genes encode the penicillin-binding protein (PBP2a) resulting in resistance to entire class of antibiotics. (Carretto *et al.*, 2018; Turner *et al.*, 2019; Ismail *et al.*, 2021). The global spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) means that it is now a pathogen of public health concern worldwide (Chmagh & Abd Al-Abbas, 2019). In addition, an increasing number of studies from different countries show that *pvl* dominance among MRSA isolates is on the rise (Bhatta *et al.*, 2016; Bakthavatchalam *et al.*, 2017). The current study aimed to identify the panton-valentine leukocidin (*pvl*) gene prevalence among MRSA isolated from dental infected patients in Al-Basrah, Iraq (Gadban *et al.*, 2020).

Material and Methods

Sample Collection:

During the period from December 2020 to January 2021, one hundred and fifty swabs were collected from dental infections patients who were admitted to Al-Matiha Health Center and Al-Qaleej Al-Arabi Health Center, and (75) samples were collected for each center. The ages ranged from 10 to 75 years, and the average age was 47 years, as well as included both sexes.

All patients were selected depending on their clinical examination by specialist doctors. Samples were collected from a decayed tooth with a cotton-sterile swab. All samples were transported to a microbiological laboratory at the University of Basrah - a college of Science /department of biology for isolation, identification of bacteria, and for the further investigations test as showing table (1).

Table (1) Percentage and Number of Patients According to Demographic of sex and age groups.

Variables	Class	Groups	
		No.	%
Sex	male	77	51
	female	73	49
	total	150	100
Age	10 - 32 y.	45	30
	33 - 54 y.	65	43
	55 - 75 y.	40	27
	Total	150	100

.Isolation and Identification:

The swab sample was first cultured in brain heart infusion broth for 24 hrs. at 37°C. The broth that gave positive bacterial growth was transferred to mannitol salt agar and blood agar plates and kept at 37°C for 24 hrs. The properties of the isolates were then used to identify it. The strains with *Staphylococcus aureus* characteristics were chosen, and the coagulase test was performed (Harley and Prescott, 2002). Through using Vitek® 2 system version 07.01 device, the isolation identification was confirmed.

Screening of *Staphylococcus aureus* Methicillin-Resistant (MRSA)

MRSA was identified using the oxacillin and cefoxitin diffusion disc method according to (Datta *et al.*, 2011; Sharma *et al.*, 2017). The inhibition zone diameter was measured and interpreted according to (CLSI, 2018).

Genetic Profiling:

DNA extraction:

The DNA Presto Mini gDNA Bacteria kit (Geneaid, USA) was used to extract genomic DNA according to the manufactures specifications.

16S rDNA gene PCR:

The isolated DNA was amplified using specified primers with a product size of 756 bp.

Molecular detection of *mecA* and *pvl* genes: According to (Lina *et al.*, 1999), universal primers were employed for amplification of the *mecA* and *PVL* genes, respectively such as a table (2).

Table (2) The 16SrDNA, *mecA* and *PVL* Specific primers used in PCR

primers	Sequence	length	Size bp	Optimizing TA*
Staph.16SrDNA	F:5'-AACTCTGTTATTAGGGAAGAACA-3'	23	756	55°C
	R:5'-CCACCTTCCTCCGGTTTGTCCACC-3'	23		55°C
<i>mecA</i>	5'-AAAATCGATGGTAAAGGTTGGC-3'	22	533	53 °C
	5'-AGTTCTGGAGTACCGGATTTGC-3'	22		53 °C
<i>PVL</i>	5'ATCATTAGGTAAAATGTCTGGACATGATCCA-3'	31	433	55 °C
	5'-GCATCAACTGTATTGGATAGCAAAAGC-3'	27		55 °C

RESULT

Only 15(10%) *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates were identified out of 150 swab samples collected December 2020 to January 2021. Mannitol fermentation, type of on hemolysis blood agar, and the coagulation production test results are used to identify *S.aureus* isolates from mouth infections. The Vitek[®]2 system was used for confirm the identification. The results showed that all (n=15).

S. aureus isolates classified as MRSA isolates. through given the inhibitory resistant criteria for oxacillin disc 1µg. The results showed that identified with the numbers (1,3,2,5,6,7and12), (8,9,11,13and14) and (10, 4and15) gave the inhibition zone less than (10m, 9mm and 8mm) in percentage 46.7% ,33.3% and 20% respectively (Fig. 1). Also, inhibitory resistant criteria detect based on the interpretation of CLIS, all *S.aureus* isolates (n=15) were tested against cefoxitin (30µg) antibiotic disc. The isolates with the numbers (1,5,6,7,9 and14),(8,3,4,12 and13) and (2, 10,11 and15) gave the inhibition zone less than (21mm, 20mm and 18mm) with percentages 40%,33.3% and 26.7% respectively, as shown in (Fig. 2).

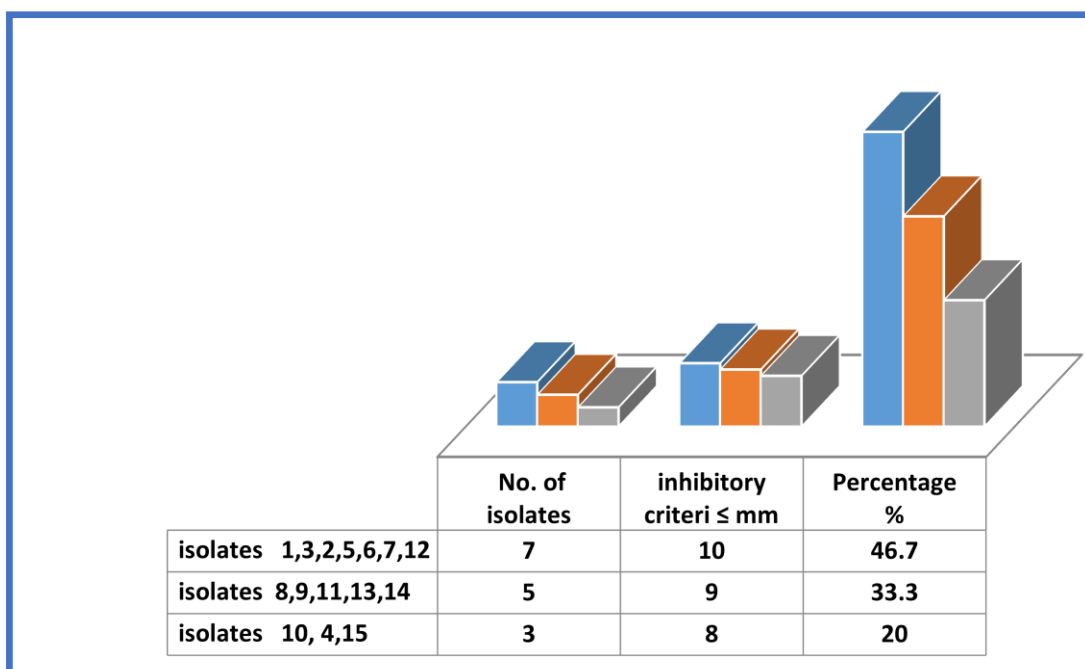


Figure (1) The inhibition Zone and percentage of the isolated resistant results for oxacillin 1µg antibiotic disc.

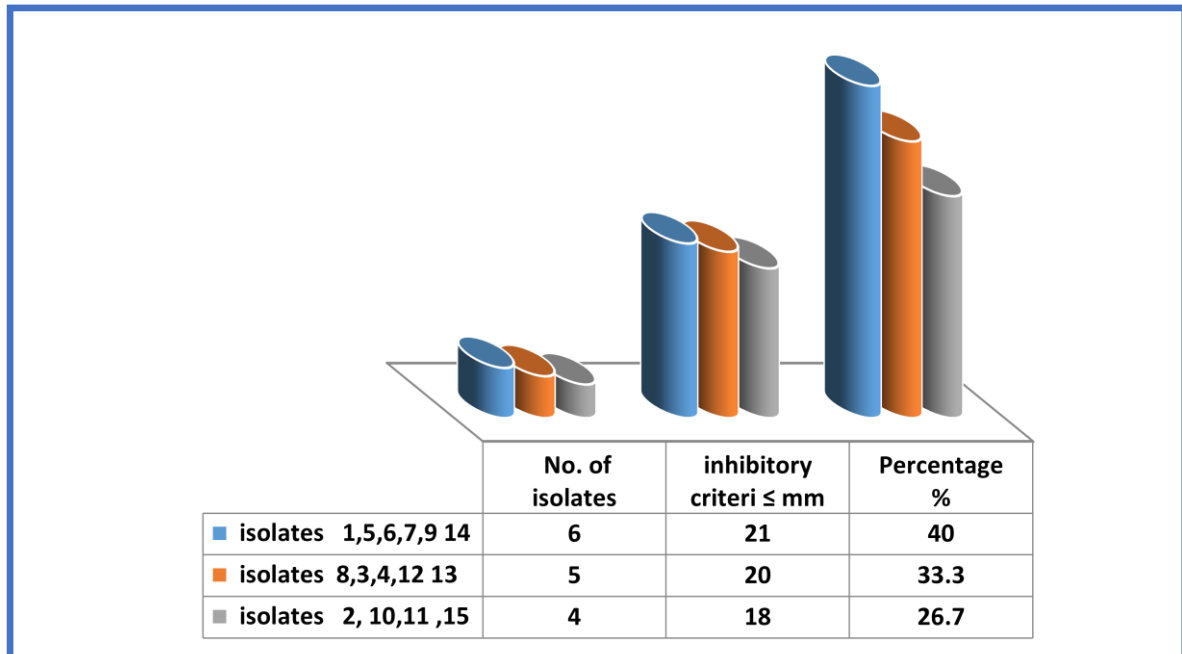
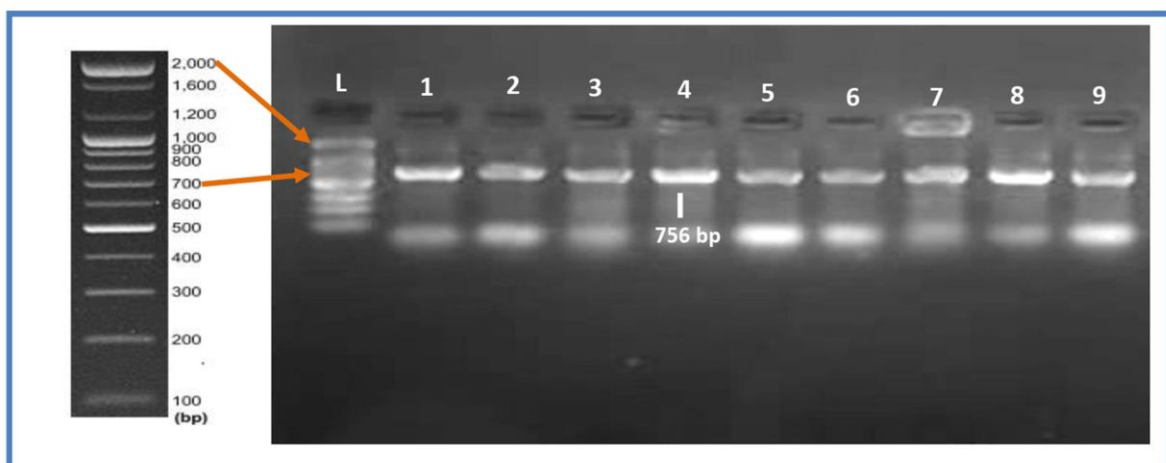


Figure (2) The inhibition Zone and percentage of the isolated resistant results for cefoxitin 30µg antibiotic disc.

Furthermore, genetic profiling results of amplifying *16S rDNA* were shown a positive result for all (n=15) isolates exhibited a positive result with the single *16S rDNA* band viewed in (756 bp) (Fig. 3). Also, the amplification results of the *mecA* gene were shown a positive result for all (n=15) isolates through given a single band at 533 bp (Fig. 4). While *PVL* gene amplification was shown a positive result for all (n=15) isolates through given a single ring 433 bp (Fig. 5). The standard DNA molecular ladder was used to compare all amplified genes (2000 bp).



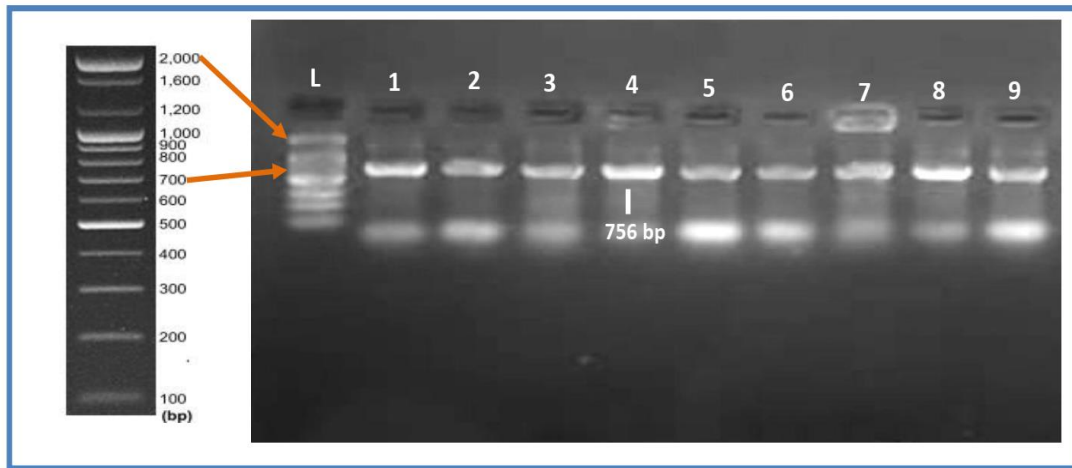


Figure (3) Gel electrophoresis patterns show PCR amplified products of 16S rDNA gene. (2000 bp DNA ladder), (756 bp 16S rDNA gene) band of bacterial isolates.

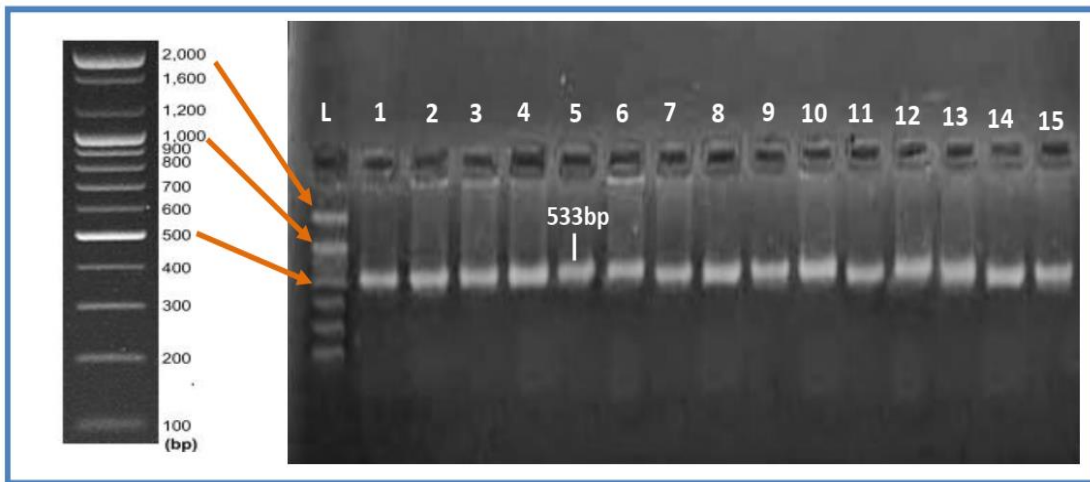


Figure (4) Gel electrophoresis patterns show PCR amplified products of the *mec A* gene. (2000 bp DNA ladder), (533 bp *mec A* gene) band of bacterial isolates.

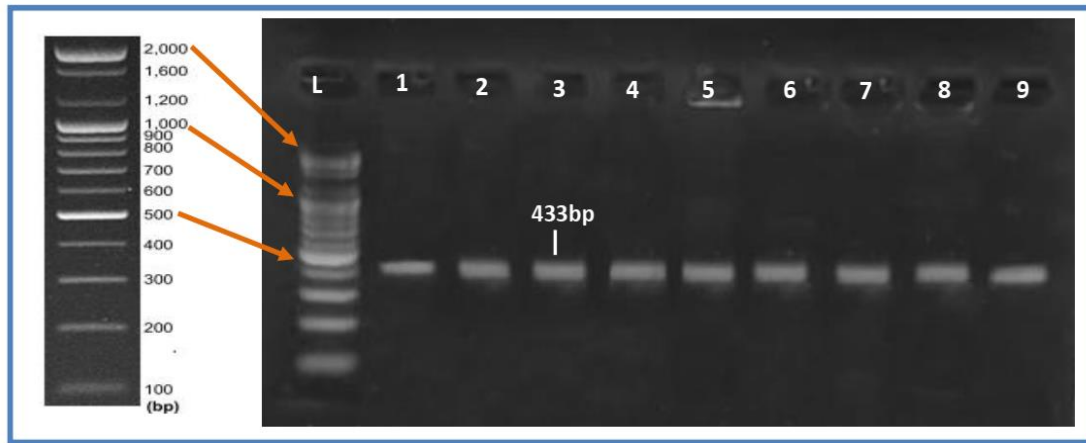


Figure (5) Gel electrophoresis patterns show PCR amplified products of pvl gene. (2000 bp DNA ladder), (433 bp pvl gene) band of bacterial isolates.

DISCUSSION

16S rDNA nucleotide sequence data for each isolate, fifteen alignments of (15) bacterial isolates were identified from (15) isolates from dental injury patients. It is a double-stranded chromosomal DNA containing fixed non-coding sites and non-protein producing and everything that does not code for protein becomes distinctive in giving the identification identity of the bacteria, and this gene is used to detect the genus of the bacteria not its species.

The present study shows lower rate of infection caused by *S. aureus* (10%) compared *Salmonella typhoid* of Manisha *et al.*, (2019) reported from (64) samples were collected from patients with dental infection the present 40(62.5%) *S.aureus* isolates were found, also on other studies of (Ohara-Nemoto *et al.*, 2008; Mc Cormack *et al.*, 2015; Kim and Lee 2015) were reported the *S. aureus* found in 46.4%, 18%, 36.6% respectively. Ansari *et al.*, (2011) study was reported from (250) samples were collected from patients with dental infection the results given *S.aureus* (56%), *E.coli* (25%) *Pseudomonas spp.* (13%), *S.typhoid* (4%) and *Shigella* (2%) . and also the results have shown the *S.aureus* isolates were resistant to various antibiotics. A study by Kzar *et al.*, (2020) reported from (30) pus samples were collected from patients with dental infection in the presence of *S. aureus* (26.2%). Other studies by Donkor & Kotey, (2020) showed the appearance of MRSA in the mouth can be enhanced by the widespread by using of antibiotic prophylaxis among high-risk dental procedure candidates. These changes in the epidemiology of MRSA it has important implications for MRSA preventive strategies.

Also, the results showed a very high susceptibility of isolates to amoxicillin (97%) followed by cefotaxime and imipenem (94%). Whereas the lowest sensitivity was detected to clindamycin (18%). The study of Hanumanthappa *et al*, (2018) reported that in vitro culture and antibiotic sensitivity test (AST) utilizing methicillin, oxacillin, and Cefoxitin screen disk diffusion (DD) are the most widely used procedures in laboratories for quickly identifying *Staphylococci* resistant to methicillin. In this study of Access,(2017) the ability to determine methicillin resistance is crucial in determining the prognosis of *S. aureus* infection. Phenotypic detection methods are less expensive than genotyping procedures, however, they are dependent on environmental circumstances. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) detection of the *mecA* gene was the gold standard for identifying MRSA.

The results revealed that all *S.aureus* isolates in this investigation gave a positive result for *mecA* gene identification using PCR techniques

According to Aboud and Khudaier, (2019) pointed that the resistance is caused by a mutant penicillin-binding protein, PBP2a, which is produced by *mecA* gene alleles. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) strains has acquired the gene that makes it resistant to almost all beta-lactam antibiotics. Resistance to other antibiotics is also common MRSA (Aboud & Khudaier, 2019). These organisms are considered dangerous pathogens in hospitals, and they are effective treatment can be difficult (Lina *et al.*, 1999). MRSA infections have increased at an alarming rate in recent years. MRSA infection has become a major health concern worldwide. No longer restricted to patients in medical settings, MRSA infections are expected to rise (Singh *et al.*, 2019). First molecular surveillance of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) at Canselor Tuanku Muhriz Hospital (HCTM), a Malaysian teaching hospital, was performed in 2009. The dominant version is identified as MRSA (Abbas *et al.*, 2017; Ismail *et al.*, 2021).

The virulence of MRSA is due to the toxin ponton valentine (*PVL*).To MRSA strains are in increasing threatening the health (Zhang *et al*, 2018). Leukocytes are the main cellular targets of *PVL*. The *PVL* protein interacts to complement receptors on the membranous surfaces of these cells, causing the cells to deteriorate. The toxin stimulates neutrophils to produce pro-inflammatory cytokines and is a major pathogen of infection. (Shields *et al.*, 2016; Saeed *et al.*, 2018). Furthermore, *PVL* predominance among MRSA isolates is on the rise, according to a growing number of investigatio *PVL*-positive in recent years, *S. aureus* has gotten a lot of

attention. The *PVL* gene was found in 100 percent of *S. aureus* strains in this stream, and the majority of these were linked to dental infections. However, positive *PVL* and *mecA* findings for *Staph aureus* identification result in enhanced virulence, making these isolates a genuine threat to persons with oral injuries. ns from various nations. (Bhatta *et al.*, 2016 ; Bakthavatchalam *et al.*, 2017).

PVL is a pore-forming toxin produced by strains of *S. aureus*, which have been predominantly associated with skin and soft tissue infections but can also cause lethal necrotizing pneumonia (Saeed *et al.*, 2018; Divyakolu *et al.*, 2019). Chaya *et al.*, (2018), mentioned that skin infection with *pvl*-positive MRSA is rapidly increasing, and can recur with multiple lesions, necessitating appropriate antibiotic treatment and surgical drainage. In another study, for Schaumburg *et al.*, (2014) MRSA indicated the transmission of *S.aureus* high prevalence USA 300 related isolates between women and their newborn neonates. *S. aureus* insulates 56.7 % of the *S. aureus* harbour genes that code *pvl* gene.

CONCLUSION

The PCR investigation was successful and the best method can be used in identifying the *PVL* and *mecA* genes.

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