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Letter to the Editor

First case of infection by metallo- β -lactamase-producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Dear Editor,

High-level carbapenem resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a recognized public health problem. Metallo- β -lactamase (MBL) is one of the most common resistance mechanisms in these microorganisms. The gene *bla*_{SPM-1}, which is the most frequent metallo- β -lactamase gene in Brazil, was first described in 2002¹ and has been found in different regions.² Until now there has been no record of carbapenemase enzyme production in *P. aeruginosa* isolated in Mato Grosso do Sul state. Here, we describe the first report of MBL-producing *P. aeruginosa* in this region.

A 52-year-old female patient who had been diagnosed with Chagas disease 23 years ago and underwent sigmoidectomy and ileostomy surgery (2012) was admitted to a University Hospital of Mato Grosso do Sul on August 28, 2013 for intestinal reconstruction.

Ten days after admission, the patient underwent enteronastomosis. Four days thereafter she presented surgical wound infection, which was treated with meropenem for 15 days. Despite this treatment, purulent fluid continued to drain. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was identified using the Vitek 2 compact system and presented resistance to the following antibiotics: ceftriaxone (MIC \geq 64 μ g/mL), ceftazidime (MIC = 32 μ g/mL), imipenem (MIC \geq 16 μ g/mL), meropenem (MIC \geq 16 μ g/mL), and piperacillin-tazobactam (MIC > 128 μ g/mL). This strain was susceptible to amikacin, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, and colistin. Thus, meropenem used for her treatment was switched to ciprofloxacin, and the patient was discharged after 30 days of total hospitalization.

The *bla*_{SPM-1}, *bla*_{IMP-1}, *bla*_{SIM-1}, *bla*_{VIM-1}, and *bla*_{GIM-1} genes were investigated by multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using specific primers,³ but only *bla*_{SPM-1} gene was detected. PCR conditions were as follows: denaturing step of 94 °C for 5 min, 35 cycles of 94 °C for 20 s, 53 °C for 45 s, 72 ° for 30 s, and a final incubation at 72 °C for 10 min.

Chagas disease has a chronic course, creating functional incompetence and surgical complications. Invasive procedures such as abdominal surgery and the use of intravascular

devices are common risk factors for infection.⁴ Moreover, antibiotic treatment can select for multidrug-resistant microorganisms, such as *P. aeruginosa*. Antibiotic resistance is a serious public health problem owing to therapeutic failure.⁵

In contrast to other regions, infection with metallo- β -lactamase producing *P. aeruginosa* is a rare event in the Midwest region of Brazil. The emergence of MBL in our hospital should prompt the clinical staff to reinforce infection control measures and seek treatment alternatives other than carbapenem antibiotics.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Kalinca Miranda Ferreira^a, Ana Claudia de Souza Rodrigues^{a,*}, Ana Carolina Watanabe^a, Yanara Miranda Ferreira^a, Marilene Rodrigues Chang^b

^a Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, MS, Brazil

^b Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso Sul, Laboratório de Pesquisas Microbiológicas, Campo Grande, MS, Brazil

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: anaclaurod@yahoo.com.br (A.C. Rodrigues).

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