

Abstract

Ventilator-associated pneumonia is carrying considerable morbidity and mortality, so the use of appropriate empirical antibiotic treatment is associated with improved outcome and avoids overuse of antibiotics with its related side effects in addition to increased cost. The present study aimed to evaluate the technical characteristics of a rapid latex agglutination test (SLIDEX[®] MRSA Detection) in patients with suspected VAP.

Methods

From January 2015 to January 2016, in patients with suspected VAP, a sample from the mini bronchial alveolar lavage (mini BAL) was tested in a point-of-care laboratory for a rapid latex agglutination test of methicillin susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA) and MRSA. Then, the result was compared to the qualitative culture. The study was performed in a single Centre.

Results

Forty samples from 40 patients were analyzed. The culture of five (12.5%) and 3 (7.5%) samples were positive for MRSA and MSSA. The test was not interpretable in 6 (15%) cases. The sensitivity and specificity of rapid latex agglutination test is 100% and 100% respectively.

Conclusion

The rapid latex agglutination test is reliable to exclude the presence of MSSA and MRSA in the samples of patients with suspected VAP.

Keywords: pneumonia, point-of-care, diagnostic, staphylococcus, resistance.