<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>タイトル</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Impact of antibiotics on pathogens associated with otitis media with effusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>著者</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Hamamoto, Yukiko / Gotoh, Yukako / Nakajo, Yoshimi / Shimoya, Satoko / Kayama, Chikako / Hasegawa, Shingo / Nibu, Ken-Ichi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>掲載誌・巻号・ページ</td>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>Journal of Laryngology &amp; Otology, 119(11):862-865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>刊行日</td>
<td>Issue date</td>
<td>2005-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>資源タイプ</td>
<td>Resource Type</td>
<td>Journal Article / 学術雑誌論文</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>版区分</td>
<td>Resource Version</td>
<td>publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>権利</td>
<td>Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOI</td>
<td>10.1258/002221505774783476</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JaLCDOI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/handle_kernel/90000312">http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/handle_kernel/90000312</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PDF issue: 2018-10-28
Impact of antibiotics on pathogens associated with otitis media with effusion

YUKIKO HAMAMOTO, MD, YUKAKO GOTOH*, MD, YOSHIKI NAKA*, MD, SATOKO SHIMOYA*, MD, CHIKAKO KAYAMA*, MD, SHINGO HASEGAWA*, MD, KEN-ICHI NIBU, MD

Abstract
Objective: To further understand the roles of bacteria and antibiotics in the development of otitis media with effusion (OME).

Methods: Samples of middle-ear effusion (MEE) were collected during the placement of ventilation tubes to treat chronic OME. Children with acute otitis media within the past three months were excluded from this study. We used polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect pathogens and to test the susceptibility of Streptococcus pneumoniae to penicillin.

Results: Among MEE samples from 52 children, PCR detected bacterial DNA in 32 per cent (24/75) of them. S. pneumoniae was detected more frequently in middle ears that required ventilation tube insertion at least twice compared with those requiring ventilation tube insertion only once (5/15 versus 4/60; p = 0.013). Higher levels of S. pneumoniae were detected in MEE from children with, than without, a long history of antibiotic administration (7/10 versus 2/14; p = 0.0187). The pbp genes of all isolated S. pneumoniae contained mutations.

Conclusions: Long exposure to antibiotics might significantly influence the bacterial genome in MEE.

Key words: Otitis Media With Effusion; Bacteria; Polymerase Chain Reaction; Antibiotics

Introduction
Otitis media with effusion (OME) is a widespread disease of childhood that causes a transient conductive hearing loss, which, when persistent, can cause delayed speech, language and social development. The suggested causative mechanisms of OME include infection, inflammation of the middle ear, dysfunctions of the Eustachian tube, and immune complexes or endotoxins in the middle ear. However, details of the mechanism of OME remain unknown.

Senturia originally noted the presence of bacteria in middle-ear effusions (MEE) of OME. Streptococcus pneumoniae, Moraxella catarrhalis and Haemophilus influenzae, the most common pathogens in acute otitis media, have occasionally been found in MEE of OME.

To further study the roles of these bacteria in the development of OME, we examined the MEE of children with chronic OME without an episode of acute otitis media within three months, by culturing bacteria and by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification. We also examined the sensitivity of S. pneumoniae to penicillin by PCR and compared the results with the clinical course of OME.

Patients and methods
The MEE samples were collected while ventilation tubes were being placed under general anaesthesia to treat chronic OME at the Kohnan Hospital. At the time of myringotomy, MEE were aspirated into Tym-Tap collectors (Juhn Tym-Tap; Xomed Inc, Jacksonville, FL, USA). Each MEE sample was described as mucous, serous, or purulent. A portion of each MEE was sent to the bacterial laboratory where selective agars differentiated S. pneumoniae, M. catarrhalis and H. influenzae. The remainder of each sample was stored at –80°C. Clinical data were obtained from medical records. All protocols associated with this study were approved by the Ethical Committees of Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine and of the Kohnan Hospital. Written informed consent to participate in all procedures associated with this study was obtained from the parents of all of the children.

DNA purification and PCR
DNA was extracted from the MEE samples using Isogen-LS (Nippon Gene, Japan) according to the manufacturer’s protocol. The PCR-based assays
detected DNA of *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae* and *M. catarrhalis*. Primers for *β*-actin, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae* and *M. catarrhalis* were designed to allow the detection of DNA in MEE samples. Penicillin susceptibility was investigated using primers for *pbp1a*, *pbp2x* and *pbp2b*.

For PCR, 1.25 μl of template DNA was added to 23.75 μl of a reaction mixture containing 2.5 μl of 10x PCR buffer, 0.5 μl of 10 mM of a mixture of deoxynucleoside triphosphates, 0.75 μl of 50 mM MgCl₂, 0.75 μl of primer mixture (10 μM each), 0.125 μl of Taq polymerase (Life Technologies) and 19.125 μl of distilled water. The PCR cycling conditions consisted of: denaturation at 94°C for 5 min followed by 40 cycles of 94°C for 45 sec, 60°C for 60 sec and 72°C for 90 sec. After the final cycle, the reaction mixtures were incubated at 72°C for 7 min. All reaction mixtures were analysed by electrophoresis in 2 per cent agarose gels.

### Results

Between September 2001 and July 2004, ventilation tubes were inserted into 52 children at Kohnan Hospital, Kobe, Japan for at least three months to treat chronic OME. Children who developed acute otitis media within three months before tube insertion were not included in this study. Myringotomy was performed in 75 ears of 52 children from 40 boys and 12 girls (average age 4.7 years; range 20 months to 10 years). MEE samples were obtained from all these 75 ears. There were 64 mucous types and 11 serous types. Follow-up periods ranged from 6 to 36 months.

### Bacterial findings

All 75 MEE samples were cultured for bacteria and assayed by PCR (Figure 1). Bacterial culture detected *H. influenzae* and *M. catarrhalis* in four MEE samples each and no *S. pneumoniae* in any of them. PCR assays detected bacterial DNA in 32 per cent (24/75) of MEE samples from 19 children. *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae* and *M. catarrhalis* were detected in 9, 17 and 10 MEE samples, respectively. All pathogens detected by culture, were also detected by PCR. Figure 2 shows that two-thirds of the detected *H. influenzae* were present without other pathogens, whereas most *S. pneumoniae* and *M. catarrhalis* co-existed with other pathogens. Pathogens were detected in 31 per cent (20/64) of the mucous type and in 36 per cent (4/11) of the serous type of MEE.

*S. pneumoniae* was frequently detected in the refractory ears

We detected *S. pneumoniae* more frequently in OME that required ventilation tube insertion, at least twice than in that requiring insertion only once (5/15 versus 4/60; *p* = 0.013).

### Impact of prolonged antibiotic exposure on pathogens in MEE samples

Of all 24 ears in which MEE bacterial DNA was detected by PCR, antibiotics had been administered for over one month to treat ear and/or nasal diseases at other out-patient clinics before the patients were referred to our hospital. The frequency of *S. pneumoniae* was significantly higher in MEE samples from ears with antibiotic treatment compared to those without antibiotic treatment (4/15 versus 0/9; *p* = 0.017).
samples from this group compared with MEE samples from patients who did not have such a history (7/10 versus 2/14; \( p = 0.0187 \)).

**Mutations in pbp genes of S. pneumoniae**

PCR assays uncovered pbp gene mutations in eight of nine \( S. \) pneumoniae strains (Figure 1). All \( S. \) pneumoniae had mutations in at least two of the three pbp genes, i.e., two strains had mutations in pbp2x and pbp2b and six had mutations in pbp1a, pbp2x and pbp2b.

**Discussion**

A Eustachian tube dysfunction has classically been considered as the source of non-infective OME. However, recent molecular biological techniques as well as the present study have implicated bacteria in the aetiology of this condition.\(^{2,5-7}\) While bacteria were detected in only four cultured MEE samples, PCR detected at least one of three pathogens in 32 per cent of MEE samples. The criticism against PCR with respect to detecting bacteria in MEE is the possibility that it might detect dead, and not live, bacteria. However, Rayner et al. demonstrated the presence of viable intact organisms which were metabolically active and yet not culturable by standard techniques, by showing the mRNA of \( H. \) influenzae in the ‘culture-negative’ MEE.\(^{8}\) In addition, recent studies using animal models have uncovered direct evidence of pathogens attached to the middle-ear mucosa as a bacterial ‘biofilm’, rather than as free-floating organisms in MEE.\(^{9}\) These findings further support the notion that PCR assay is superior to traditional culture methods when searching for bacteria in MEE samples.

Mills et al. studied the outcome of 225 children with OME. According to their study, in most of the children, a same type of effusion was found in both ears and an effusion type was same at initial and second surgery. These findings suggest that similar aetiological factors can produce the same effusion type.\(^{10}\) Solzbacher et al. recently demonstrated that mucin in MEE inhibits the attachment of \( H. \) influenzae to mucosal epithelial cells.\(^{11}\) Considering their reports, we hypothesized at the beginning of this study that OME with mucous and with serous MEE are different entities, as proposed by Sade.\(^{12}\)

That is, the mucosal glands of the middle ear might become mucin-rich to inhibit pathogens from attaching to the middle-ear mucosa and forming a mucous biofilm. On the other hand, OME with serous effusion might develop through a different mechanism such as a dysfunction of the Eustachian tube or adenoid vegetation, rather than via immune complexes or endotoxins related to infective pathogens in the middle ear. However, the present study found that the detection rates of pathogens in the mucous and serous types of MEE were quite similar, suggesting that pathogens are involved in the development of both types of MEE.\(^{13}\)

**High levels of Streptococcus pneumoniae were detected in the effusions of children with a long history of prior antibiotic administration, raising the possibility of a change in the bacterial flora due to antibiotic use**

Of interest, \( S. \) pneumoniae was significantly more frequently detected in refractory ears that required ventilation tube insertion at least twice. In addition, all isolated \( S. \) pneumoniae had mutations of the pbp genes. Since \( S. \) pneumoniae develops resistance via genomic alterations resulting in changes in cell membrane structures called penicillin-binding proteins (PBP),\(^{14,15}\) these results show that antibiotic-resistant \( S. \) pneumoniae is associated with refractory OME.

Moreover, the detection rates of \( S. \) pneumoniae significantly differed between ears with and without prolonged exposure to antibiotics. Recent studies show that 38–43 per cent of middle-ear fluid is highly resistant to penicillin in the United States\(^{16,17}\) and up to 60 per cent of healthy children harbour antibiotic-resistant \( S. \) pneumoniae in their nasopharynx.\(^{18,19}\) Although the presence of antibiotic-resistant \( S. \) pneumoniae in MEE does not necessarily indicate serious infection, the present results demonstrate the increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant \( S. \) pneumoniae in the Japanese environment and the influence of prolonged exposure to antibiotics on its prevalence even in MEE.
References


Address for correspondence:
Professor Ken-ichi Nibu
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Kobe University, Graduate School of Medicine,
Kusunoki-cho 7–5–1, Chuo-ku,
Kobe 650-0017, Japan.
Fax: +81-78-382-6039
E-mail: nibu@med.kobe-u.ac.jp

Professor K-I Nibu takes responsibility for the integrity of the content of the paper.
Competing interests: None declared.