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Detection of coagulase-negative staphylococci in pasteurized breast milk

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Keywords:

Coagulase negative staphylococci (CoNS)

Breast milk

Pasteurization

Neonate

Cultivation

PCR-TTGE

BACKGROUND

*CoNS:

- ❖ most represented group of bacteria in raw breast milk and stools of very preterm neonates [1,2]
- ❖ leading cause of late-onset sepsis in preterms [3]
- > Similarity between CoNS isolated from stools and neonate blood cultures suggests a causal relationship [4]
- > Preterm infants are frequently fed with pasteurized breast milk (PBM) from milk bank
- > Pasteurization process should completely eliminate remaining CoNS

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Search for **CoNS** in pasteurized breast milk by cultivation and cultivation-independent methods to investigate the possible role of PBM as a vehicle for the **transmission** of CoNS to the neonates fed with PBM.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- 603 samples of PBM from milk bank
- * Conventional and optimized culture of PBM,

and rpoB gene-based identification of CoNS [5]

- 1 mL of sample inoculated onto sheep blood agar (bioMérieux) and incubated at 37° C during 48 h
- samples inoculated on trypticase soy agar (TS, Difco) and Schaedler broth (bioMérieux) incubated at 37° C for 10 days, TS agar slant being daily inoculated by turning, and minimal medium (Nutrient agar, Difco) into a tube, incubated for 20 days at 37° C (500 μl of milk in each of the media).
- Cultivation-independent method

after DNAse digestion of free DNA:

tuf gene based-PCR followed by temporal temperature gradient gel electrophoresis (tuf-PCR-TTGE) [6]

RESULTS

CULTURE

Conventional cultures

All negative for CoNS

- Optimized culture
 - CoNS isolated from 7/392 samples

1.8% of samples

- ✓ Identification
 - ❖ S. epidermidis (n=5)
 - ❖ S. haemolyticus (n=1)
 - ❖ S. warneri (n=1)
- * 10 samples: Gram-positive cocci with morphology compatible with *Staphylococcus* spp. and negative sub-culture

INDEPENDANT - CULTURE

* tuf-PCR-TTGE

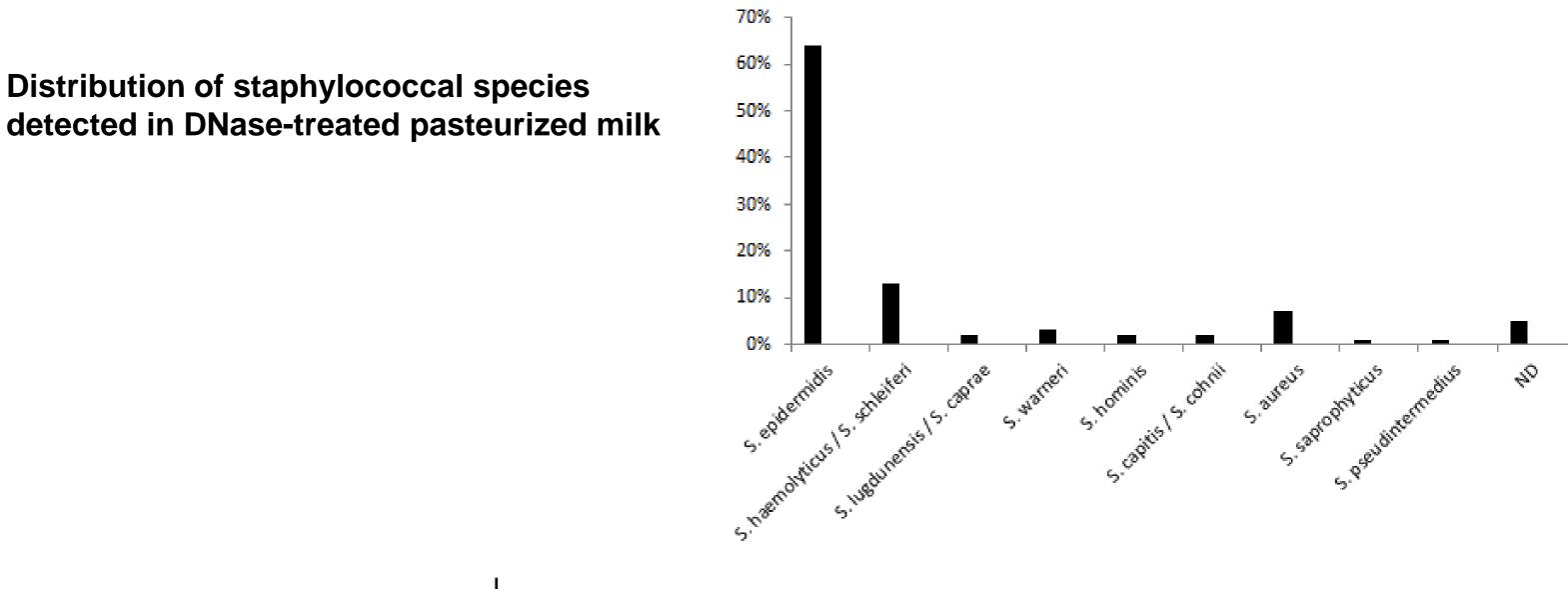
All positive for CoNS

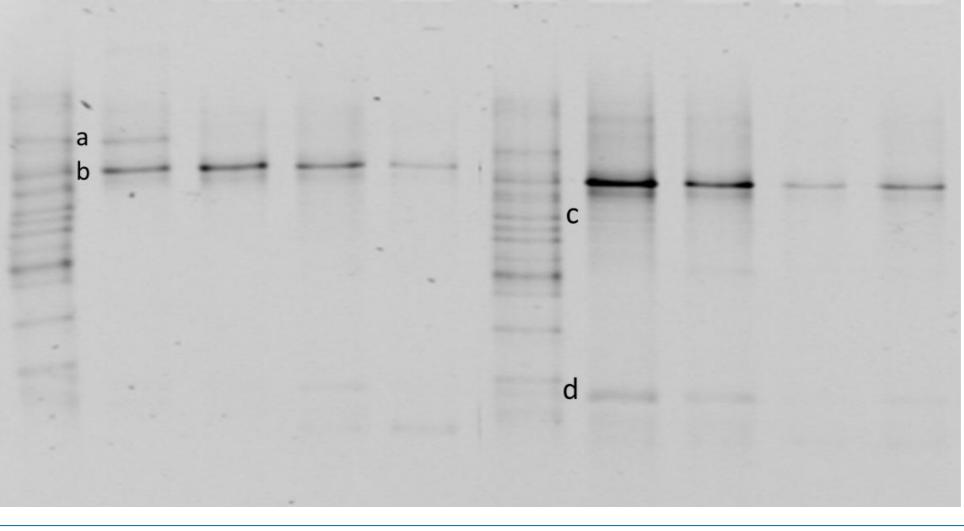
- tuf-PCR-TTGE after DNAse digestion of free DNA
 - Detection of CoNS DNA from 84/211 samples

39.8% of samples

- ✓ Number of species by sample: 1 to 7
- ✓ Identification
 - ❖ S. epidermidis: major detected species 64%
 - S. haemolyticus

13%.





TTGE migration of pasteurized breast milk samples treated by DNase.

L, Staphylococcus diversity ladder.

Specific band for each species is noted

by a letter; a for *S. lugdunensis*, b for *S. epidermidis*, c for *S.* aureus, d for artifactual band.

DISCUSSION - CONCLUSIONS

- **❖** With culture: identification of CoNS in PBM, mainly *S. epidermidis* AND
- **❖** With culture and Cultivation-independent method after DNAse digestion of free DNA:
 - Detection of CoNS DNA
 - Identification of one or more species of CoNS, mainly S. epidermidis
 - > Viable and cultivable CoNS persisted in breast milk after pasteurization.
 - > PBM could supply intestinal reservoir of CoNS species involved in preterm infant infections.

REFERENCES
[1] Jacquot, Neveu et al. 2011
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[9] [10] [11] [12]