**ANTIBIOTICS SUSCEPTIBILITY PATTERN OF SOME SELECTED BACTERIA (BATONELLA, BACILLUS, SALMONELLA) ASSOCIATED WITH URINARY TRACT INFECTION AMONG PATIENT'S ATTENDING GENERAL HOSPITAL MINNA NIGER STATE**

# ABSTRACT

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) represent a significant public health issue, often complicated by the rising prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains. This study investigates the prevalence and antibiotic susceptibility patterns of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella isolated from UTI cases among patients attending General Hospital Minna, Niger State. A cross-sectional design was employed, with bacterial isolates obtained from urine samples subjected to culture, biochemical tests, and antibiotic susceptibility testing using the disk diffusion method. Statistical analysis, including chi-square and ANOVA, revealed that Bartonella was the most prevalent isolate, demonstrating high resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics such as amoxicillin-clavulanate and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole. Salmonella exhibited relatively low resistance, maintaining susceptibility to first-line antibiotics, while Bacillus showed moderate resistance but remained susceptible to gentamicin and nitrofurantoin. The study underscores the need for localized antibiotic guidelines and the importance of routine culture-based diagnostics in optimizing UTI treatment. This research highlights the critical role of antibiotic stewardship in mitigating the spread of resistance, advocating for region-specific treatment protocols and responsible antibiotic use. Limitations include the study's single-site focus, which may restrict generalizability. Future research should explore broader geographical areas and employ molecular techniques to understand the genetic mechanisms of resistance. These findings provide a foundation for informed clinical decisions, public health policy adjustments, and ultimately, better management of UTI-related antibiotic resistance in the study region.

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# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are a significant public health concern, affecting millions globally and imposing a considerable burden on healthcare systems, particularly in developing regions (Falguni et al., 2021). Infections in the urinary tract are primarily caused by bacteria, with species such as Escherichia coli, Klebsiella spp., and Proteus mirabilis as common culprits. However, less frequently reported bacterial strains, including Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella, are increasingly implicated in UTIs, especially in patients with immunosuppression or in environments where these pathogens are prevalent (Ahmed et al., 2019). With rising rates of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), understanding bacterial susceptibility patterns is essential for effective management, as resistance rates affect treatment choices and outcomes. Recent research underscores that UTIs are especially common in healthcare settings and are often recurrent, with certain groups, such as females and elderly patients, experiencing higher incidence rates (Bushra et al., 2023). In Nigeria, where UTI cases continue to increase, this issue is compounded by the region’s high AMR prevalence, attributed to factors such as empirical prescription practices, limited diagnostic resources, and unregulated antibiotic use (Bello et al., 2020). These challenges are critical in settings like General Hospital Minna, Niger State, where patients present a variety of infections linked to bacterial strains with varied resistance patterns.

Among the causative agents of UTI, Gram-negative bacteria like Salmonella and Gram-positive bacteria such as Bacillus spp. are emerging threats due to their distinctive resistance patterns, which complicate treatment. AMR in Gram-negative bacteria, for example, is generally more prevalent and challenging to address due to mechanisms like extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) production, which confers resistance to multiple antibiotic classes (Mathew et al., 2021). For example, Salmonella spp., a common cause of foodborne infections, has increasingly been isolated in urinary cultures, underscoring the importance of regional studies in identifying local resistance patterns (Adebola et al., 2018). Meanwhile, Bartonella, although more commonly associated with zoonotic infections, has also been identified in some urinary cases, posing a diagnostic challenge due to its atypical presentation and resistance characteristics (Njeru et al., 2022).

The use of antibiotics such as fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, and beta-lactams remains standard for treating UTIs. However, the effectiveness of these treatments is declining due to escalating resistance, with Bartonella showing varying levels of susceptibility across studies (Ahmed et al., 2023). Increasing AMR among UTI pathogens in Nigeria has necessitated a re-evaluation of empirical therapy protocols, especially in hospitals like General Hospital Minna, where laboratory resources are limited, and empirical treatment remains common practice (James et al., 2019). Understanding the local susceptibility patterns is vital in optimizing treatment protocols and mitigating the spread of resistant infections, reducing morbidity and healthcare costs associated with UTIs.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The growing burden of AMR presents a critical challenge for managing UTIs, particularly in regions with limited healthcare resources and high infection rates, like Niger State, Nigeria (Akinyemi et al., 2021). The reliance on empirical antibiotic treatment in settings where laboratory confirmation of bacterial strains and susceptibility testing are often unavailable increases the risk of inappropriate treatment and AMR proliferation. In General Hospital Minna, there is a significant lack of data on the susceptibility patterns of less common bacterial strains like Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in UTIs. This gap hinders effective treatment and increases the likelihood of treatment failures, leading to prolonged infections and the potential spread of resistant bacteria in the community.

Moreover, with Salmonella and Bacillus increasingly detected in urinary cultures, the absence of a tailored approach to managing these pathogens places an additional burden on healthcare providers and patients. Failure to address these pathogens' susceptibility patterns could lead to the continued emergence of drug-resistant strains, further complicating UTI treatment. Addressing this problem by studying the local antibiotic susceptibility patterns of these bacteria is essential to guide appropriate antibiotic use, enhance patient outcomes, and prevent the community-wide spread of resistant infections (Njeru et al., 2022).

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

**1.3.1 General Objective**

To determine the antibiotic susceptibility patterns of selected bacteria (Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella) associated with urinary tract infections (UTIs) among patients attending General Hospital Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.

**1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

1. To identify the prevalence of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in UTI cases among patients at General Hospital Minna.
2. To assess the antibiotic susceptibility profiles of these bacteria against commonly used antibiotics.
3. To evaluate the resistance patterns of these bacteria to determine any trends in multidrug resistance.

## 1.4 Research Questions

1. What is the prevalence of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in UTI cases among patients at General Hospital Minna?
2. Which antibiotics are most effective against Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in UTI cases?
3. What patterns of antibiotic resistance are exhibited by Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in UTIs?

## 1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it addresses the need for current data on antibiotic susceptibility patterns of UTI-associated bacteria in Niger State, where limited resources and diagnostic facilities make empirical treatment common. The findings will help healthcare providers at General Hospital Minna make more informed decisions on antibiotic selection, potentially reducing the prevalence of inappropriate treatments and improving patient outcomes. Additionally, understanding the antibiotic resistance patterns of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella will contribute to the global effort to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is an escalating concern in developing regions (Ahmed et al., 2023; James et al., 2019).

## 1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study will be conducted at General Hospital Minna and will focus specifically on patients presenting with UTI symptoms. It will include only the bacterial strains Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella, given their emerging association with UTIs. The study is limited by its geographical focus, meaning findings may not be generalizable to other regions of Nigeria or globally. Additionally, resource limitations may restrict access to advanced diagnostic methods, impacting the depth of antibiotic resistance profiling.

## 1.7 Definition of Terms

**Antibiotic Susceptibility:** The sensitivity or resistance of bacteria to various **antibiotics, determining effective treatment options.**

**Urinary Tract Infection (UTI):** An infection in any part of the urinary system, often caused by bacteria, leading to symptoms such as pain during urination and frequent urges to urinate.

**Multidrug-Resistant (MDR):** Bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics, making infections harder to treat.

Empirical Treatment: Treatment based on clinical experience and general patterns of resistance, often without specific microbiological testing.

# CHAPTER TWO

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Overview of Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)

**Introduction to Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)**

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are among the most common bacterial infections affecting the urinary system, which includes the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra. They are prevalent in both community and healthcare settings, affecting individuals of all age groups but predominantly impacting women, the elderly, and individuals with certain medical conditions (Flores-Mireles et al., 2015). UTI incidence varies based on several factors, including age, sex, and underlying health conditions, making it a significant area of study in both epidemiology and infectious disease management.

**Epidemiology of UTIs**

Epidemiologically, UTIs are considered a significant public health burden due to their prevalence and the potential complications that can arise if left untreated (Hooton, 2012). Studies indicate that approximately 50–60% of women will experience at least one UTI in their lifetime, with a significant number experiencing recurrent infections (Foxman, 2014). In men, UTIs are less frequent but can be severe, particularly in older adults and those with prostate issues. Current statistics suggest that UTIs account for millions of healthcare visits globally each year, with a large portion being treated on an outpatient basis (Foxman et al., 2013).

**Pathophysiology of UTIs**

The primary cause of UTIs is bacterial infection, where bacteria enter the urinary tract, adhere to the urothelial cells, and initiate an inflammatory response. Escherichia coli (E. coli) is the most common causative pathogen, responsible for around 80% of community-acquired infections (Flores-Mireles et al., 2015). Other bacteria, such as Klebsiella, Proteus, and certain species within the genus Salmonella and Bacillus, are also implicated in UTIs, especially in healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) (Hodgson et al., 2021). The entry of bacteria into the urinary tract typically occurs through the urethra, with ascending infections leading to cystitis (bladder infection) and pyelonephritis (kidney infection) in severe cases (Wagenlehner & Naber, 2018).

**Risk Factors for UTIs**

Several risk factors contribute to UTI susceptibility, including anatomical, physiological, and behavioral factors. For instance, women’s shorter urethras increase susceptibility due to the proximity of the urethra to the anus, facilitating bacterial migration. Hormonal changes, pregnancy, sexual activity, and the use of certain contraceptives further increase the risk of UTIs in women (Mody & Juthani-Mehta, 2014). In men, risk factors include prostatic hypertrophy, catheterization, and urinary retention (Medina & Castillo-Pino, 2019). Additionally, immunocompromised individuals, patients with diabetes, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to recurrent and complicated UTIs (Gupta et al., 2011).

**Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis of UTIs**

The clinical symptoms of UTIs vary depending on the site of infection and the severity. Lower UTIs or cystitis typically present with symptoms such as dysuria (painful urination), increased urinary frequency, and suprapubic pain (Hooton et al., 2012). Upper UTIs or pyelonephritis may present with more severe symptoms, including fever, flank pain, nausea, and vomiting. In complicated cases, UTIs can lead to sepsis, particularly in older or immunocompromised patients (Flores-Mireles et al., 2015).

Diagnostic approaches for UTIs generally involve a combination of clinical symptom assessment, urinalysis, and urine culture. Urinalysis is used to detect pyuria (white blood cells in urine) and bacteriuria (bacteria in urine), while urine culture helps identify the specific causative organism and guides antimicrobial therapy (Gupta et al., 2017). Advances in molecular diagnostics, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR), have enhanced the accuracy and speed of pathogen identification, particularly for atypical bacteria associated with UTIs (Wilson et al., 2018).

**Treatment and Management of UTIs**

The standard treatment for UTIs is antibiotic therapy, with the choice of antibiotic depending on the suspected or confirmed causative agent, the patient’s health status, and local antibiotic resistance patterns (Gupta et al., 2011). The increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant strains, particularly in healthcare-associated UTIs, has complicated treatment strategies. In recent years, multi-drug resistant (MDR) strains of E. coli, Klebsiella, and other bacteria have emerged as major concerns, underscoring the need for accurate susceptibility testing to guide treatment (Beyene & Tsegaye, 2011).

For uncomplicated UTIs, empirical treatment is often effective, but for recurrent or complicated infections, a targeted approach based on susceptibility testing is essential (Hooton, 2012). Research continues to focus on novel therapeutic strategies, including the development of vaccines and non-antibiotic treatments to reduce the incidence of recurrent infections (Brumbaugh & Mobley, 2012).

**Antibiotic Resistance in UTI Pathogens**

Antibiotic resistance has become a critical concern in managing UTIs, particularly in patients with recurrent infections or those requiring prolonged catheterization. Resistance mechanisms among UTI pathogens include the production of extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs), efflux pumps, and biofilm formation, which protect bacteria from host immune responses and antibiotic action (Rice, 2016). Surveillance studies suggest a rising resistance trend among common UTI pathogens to first-line antibiotics such as trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and ciprofloxacin (Sanchez et al., 2016). This necessitates a reevaluation of empirical therapy protocols and reinforces the importance of monitoring local antibiotic resistance patterns to optimize treatment strategies (Gupta et al., 2017).

## 2.2 Bacteria Commonly Associated with UTIs

Introduction to Bacterial Pathogens in UTIs

The pathogenesis of UTIs is predominantly linked to bacterial infections, with Escherichia coli (E. coli) being the most common pathogen. However, other bacterial species, including Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella, have been associated with UTIs, particularly in complicated or healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). These bacteria display unique infection mechanisms, ecological niches, and antibiotic susceptibility patterns that impact treatment efficacy and infection control strategies (Flores-Mireles et al., 2015; Wilson et al., 2018).

**2.2.1 Bartonella**

Bartonella species, traditionally associated with zoonotic infections such as cat scratch disease, are increasingly recognized as opportunistic pathogens in immunocompromised patients, including those with chronic urinary catheters. Although not a common causative agent of UTIs, Bartonella can colonize the urinary tract and contribute to infection, especially in patients with underlying health conditions (Breitschwerdt et al., 2010).

**Pathogenesis of Bartonella in UTIs**  
Bartonella species possess specific virulence factors, such as adhesins and invasins, that facilitate their entry and survival within host cells. They are capable of establishing intracellular infections, which can complicate the diagnosis and management of UTIs, as these infections may not respond to typical antibiotic treatments. Research suggests that Bartonella can evade the immune system by residing within host cells, making it challenging to eradicate with standard antibiotic regimens (Dehio, 2001).

**Antibiotic Susceptibility and Resistance**  
Bartonella species are generally susceptible to a range of antibiotics, including macrolides and tetracyclines. However, their intracellular lifestyle can reduce the efficacy of some antibiotics, as these drugs must penetrate host cells to reach therapeutic levels (Brouqui & Raoult, 2001). Case studies indicate that azithromycin and doxycycline are often effective treatments for Bartonella-associated UTIs, although resistance has been observed in certain strains (Minnick et al., 2003).

**2.2.2 Bacillus**

The Bacillus genus includes a variety of species, some of which are implicated in human infections. Bacillus species such as Bacillus subtilis and Bacillus cereus are primarily environmental bacteria but can cause UTIs in immunocompromised patients or those with indwelling catheters. Bacillus cereus, in particular, has been noted for its role in healthcare-associated UTIs, where it can contaminate medical devices (Logan, 2012).

**Pathogenesis of Bacillus in UTIs**  
Bacillus species have several virulence factors, including toxins and enzymes, that enable them to invade host tissues and evade immune responses. In cases of Bacillus-associated UTIs, the bacteria may produce toxins that lead to tissue damage, potentially increasing the severity of the infection (Bottone, 2010). Bacillus cereus is known for its biofilm-forming abilities, which can enhance its persistence in the urinary tract and on medical devices, complicating treatment and eradication (Zuber et al., 2001).

**Antibiotic Susceptibility and Resistance**  
Bacillus species are generally susceptible to penicillin and other beta-lactam antibiotics, although resistance has been reported, particularly in healthcare settings. Bacillus cereus, for instance, is often resistant to penicillin and other beta-lactams due to beta-lactamase production. In such cases, alternative antibiotics, such as vancomycin or clindamycin, may be required (Celandroni et al., 2016). The propensity of Bacillus species to form biofilms further complicates treatment, as biofilms can protect bacterial cells from both antibiotics and the host immune response (Gohar et al., 2008).

**2.2.3 Salmonella**

Salmonella, primarily known for causing gastrointestinal infections, has also been associated with extraintestinal infections, including UTIs. Salmonella UTIs are relatively rare but can occur in immunocompromised individuals or those with structural abnormalities in the urinary tract. Salmonella enterica serotypes Typhi and Paratyphi are among those implicated in UTIs, especially in regions where typhoid fever is endemic (Hohmann, 2001).

Pathogenesis of Salmonella in UTIs  
The pathogenicity of Salmonella in UTIs is linked to its ability to survive and replicate within host cells, particularly macrophages. This intracellular lifestyle enables Salmonella to evade immune detection and establish chronic infections in the urinary tract. In addition, Salmonella can utilize various adherence factors and surface structures to attach to uroepithelial cells, initiating infection (Haraga et al., 2008). Although rare, Salmonella-associated UTIs can progress to bacteremia, posing significant risks, especially in patients with weakened immune systems.

**Antibiotic Susceptibility and Resistance**  
Antibiotic treatment for Salmonella UTIs typically involves fluoroquinolones, such as ciprofloxacin, or third-generation cephalosporins, which are generally effective against most strains. However, multidrug-resistant (MDR) strains of Salmonella have become increasingly prevalent, complicating treatment (Gordon, 2008). Resistance to fluoroquinolones and cephalosporins has been documented, especially in regions with high rates of antibiotic use, underscoring the need for susceptibility testing before initiating treatment (Crump et al., 2015). The emergence of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing strains further limits therapeutic options, posing a challenge in both diagnosis and management (Wong et al., 2013).

## 2.3 Antibiotic Resistance and Susceptibility in UTI Pathogens

**Introduction to Antibiotic Resistance in UTIs**

Antibiotic resistance among urinary tract infection (UTI) pathogens has emerged as a global health concern, complicating treatment and increasing the risk of recurrent and severe infections. As resistance rates rise, first-line antibiotics like trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and fluoroquinolones are becoming less effective against common UTI pathogens, especially in healthcare-associated infections (Gupta et al., 2011). Understanding antibiotic resistance mechanisms and monitoring susceptibility patterns are essential for developing effective management strategies and minimizing treatment failures.

**Mechanisms of Antibiotic Resistance in UTI Pathogens**

The mechanisms of antibiotic resistance in UTI-causing bacteria are diverse and complex, often involving multiple genetic mutations and adaptive behaviors. Common resistance mechanisms include:

**Beta-Lactamase Production**  
Beta-lactamase enzymes, including extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs), are capable of hydrolyzing beta-lactam antibiotics, rendering them ineffective. ESBL-producing strains of E. coli, Klebsiella, and other UTI pathogens have become widespread, particularly in healthcare settings. These enzymes contribute significantly to resistance against penicillins and cephalosporins (Rawat & Nair, 2010).

**Efflux Pumps**  
Efflux pumps actively expel antibiotics from bacterial cells, reducing drug concentration at the target site. This mechanism is commonly observed in multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria, including those that cause UTIs. Efflux pumps are particularly relevant in resistance to fluoroquinolones, such as ciprofloxacin (Blair et al., 2015).

**Biofilm Formation**  
Biofilms are complex bacterial communities that adhere to surfaces, such as catheter materials, and are encased in a protective matrix. Biofilm-forming bacteria are inherently more resistant to antibiotics due to limited drug penetration and the presence of dormant cells that evade treatment. Common UTI pathogens, including Bacillus and some strains of E. coli, exhibit biofilm-forming capabilities, complicating treatment, especially in patients with indwelling devices (Costerton et al., 1999).

**Genetic Mutations and Horizontal Gene Transfer**  
Genetic mutations and the acquisition of resistance genes through horizontal gene transfer (HGT) play a critical role in the spread of antibiotic resistance. Plasmids, transposons, and integrons facilitate the transfer of resistance genes between bacteria, allowing rapid dissemination of resistance traits in healthcare settings (Martínez, 2008). HGT is a major concern with pathogens like Salmonella and Bacillus, which can acquire resistance genes from other bacteria in the environment (Martínez & Baquero, 2014).

**Factors Contributing to Antibiotic Resistance in UTIs**

Several factors contribute to the development and spread of antibiotic resistance in UTI pathogens:

Inappropriate Antibiotic Use  
The overuse and misuse of antibiotics in both healthcare and community settings have accelerated the evolution of resistant strains. In many cases, antibiotics are prescribed empirically without susceptibility testing, which can inadvertently select for resistant organisms if the initial treatment is ineffective (Ventola, 2015).

**Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)**  
HAIs, particularly those involving catheterization, are a significant source of antibiotic-resistant UTIs. Catheters provide a surface for biofilm formation, allowing bacteria to evade host defenses and antibiotic treatment. The frequent use of antibiotics in hospitals to prevent infections in catheterized patients further selects for resistant strains (Jacobsen et al., 2008).

Environmental and Agricultural Antibiotic Exposure  
Antibiotics used in agriculture and their residues in water sources contribute to environmental resistance. Pathogens like Salmonella, which are transmitted through both food and water, may acquire resistance genes in agricultural environments, posing a threat to human health (Laxminarayan et al., 2013).

**Current Trends in Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns**

The susceptibility patterns of UTI pathogens vary widely by region, setting, and the specific bacterial species involved. Current research highlights the following trends:

Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole and Fluoroquinolones  
Resistance to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) and fluoroquinolones, once first-line treatments for UTIs, has increased significantly. For instance, resistance rates to ciprofloxacin in E. coli isolates have exceeded 20% in some regions, prompting a reconsideration of empirical treatment guidelines (Sanchez et al., 2016). Studies show similar resistance trends for TMP-SMX, particularly among recurrent UTI patients (Gupta et al., 2017).

**Beta-Lactam Antibiotics**  
Beta-lactam antibiotics, such as penicillins and cephalosporins, remain effective for many UTI cases; however, the prevalence of ESBL-producing strains, especially in hospital settings, reduces their efficacy. ESBL-producing E. coli and Klebsiella have been associated with complicated and healthcare-associated UTIs, often requiring alternative therapies, such as carbapenems (Paterson & Bonomo, 2005).

**Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)**  
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, a subset of highly resistant bacteria, have emerged as a significant threat in healthcare facilities. CRE infections, caused by pathogens such as E. coli and Klebsiella, are challenging to treat due to limited therapeutic options. Polymyxins and fosfomycin are sometimes used as last-resort treatments, though they come with concerns regarding toxicity and effectiveness (Nordmann et al., 2012).

**Alternative Treatment Options and Emerging Resistance**  
The growing resistance to standard antibiotics has renewed interest in alternative treatments, including fosfomycin, nitrofurantoin, and pivmecillinam, which have shown effectiveness against certain resistant strains of E. coli. However, resistance to these agents is also increasing, particularly in regions with high levels of antibiotic use (Schito et al., 2009). Some studies have explored the potential for bacteriophage therapy and probiotics as adjunct treatments, though these approaches require further research to assess their efficacy and safety in treating UTIs (Sarker et al., 2012).

## 2.4 Mechanisms of Antibiotic Resistance

Antibiotic resistance in bacteria is a major challenge in treating infections, including UTIs. Pathogens like E. coli, Klebsiella, and less common UTI agents (e.g., Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella) have evolved sophisticated mechanisms to withstand antibiotics. These mechanisms enable bacteria to survive under selective pressures exerted by antibiotic use and contribute to the global rise in multidrug-resistant (MDR) strains, which complicates treatment options and increases healthcare costs (Davies & Davies, 2010; Ventola, 2015).

**1. Enzymatic Degradation of Antibiotics**

One of the most common mechanisms by which bacteria resist antibiotics is through the production of enzymes that deactivate or destroy the drug before it reaches its target.

Beta-Lactamase Production  
Beta-lactamase enzymes, produced by many Gram-negative bacteria, hydrolyze the beta-lactam ring found in penicillins and cephalosporins, rendering these drugs ineffective. Extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) and carbapenemases are particularly concerning as they confer resistance to a broader range of antibiotics, including third-generation cephalosporins and carbapenems (Paterson & Bonomo, 2005). ESBL-producing strains of E. coli and Klebsiella are prevalent in healthcare-associated UTIs, highlighting the impact of beta-lactamase production on treatment efficacy in hospital settings (Rawat & Nair, 2010).

**Aminoglycoside-Modifying Enzymes**  
Certain bacteria produce enzymes that modify aminoglycoside antibiotics, such as gentamicin and amikacin, through phosphorylation, acetylation, or adenylation. This modification prevents aminoglycosides from binding to bacterial ribosomes, inhibiting their antibacterial activity. Aminoglycoside resistance is especially problematic in UTI treatment when these drugs are used in combination therapies for severe infections (Ramirez & Tolmasky, 2010).

**2. Efflux Pumps**

Efflux pumps are protein complexes embedded in the bacterial cell membrane that actively expel antibiotics and other toxic substances out of the cell. These pumps lower intracellular antibiotic concentrations, preventing the drug from reaching effective levels within the bacterial cell.

Types of Efflux Pumps  
There are several families of efflux pumps, with the most notable being the Resistance-Nodulation-Division (RND) family, prevalent in Gram-negative bacteria. Efflux pumps can confer resistance to multiple antibiotics, contributing to multidrug resistance (Blair et al., 2015). For instance, the AcrAB-TolC efflux pump in E. coli and Salmonella provides resistance to fluoroquinolones, tetracyclines, and chloramphenicol, making it more difficult to treat infections caused by these pathogens (Piddock, 2006).

Role in Biofilm-Associated Infections  
Efflux pumps are overexpressed in bacteria within biofilms, a common growth mode for UTI pathogens. The increased expression of efflux pumps in biofilms enhances the resistance of bacteria in catheter-associated UTIs, reducing the efficacy of multiple classes of antibiotics and contributing to persistent infections (Poole, 2007).

**3. Genetic Mutations and Horizontal Gene Transfer**

Genetic mutations and horizontal gene transfer (HGT) are key factors in the rapid evolution and dissemination of antibiotic resistance traits among bacterial populations.

**Point Mutations**  
Spontaneous point mutations in bacterial DNA can alter the structure of antibiotic targets, rendering the drug ineffective. For example, mutations in the DNA gyrase gene (gyrA) and topoisomerase IV gene (parC) in E. coli lead to resistance to fluoroquinolones, a common class of antibiotics used in UTI treatment (Hooper & Jacoby, 2015). These mutations prevent the antibiotic from binding effectively, allowing bacterial DNA replication to proceed unchecked.

**Horizontal Gene Transfer**  
Horizontal gene transfer (HGT) enables bacteria to acquire resistance genes from other organisms through mechanisms such as conjugation, transformation, and transduction. HGT is a major contributor to the spread of resistance genes, including those encoding for beta-lactamases, efflux pumps, and resistance-conferring mutations. Plasmids, transposons, and integrons play a significant role in disseminating these genes across bacterial populations (Martínez, 2008). In healthcare settings, HGT has been a major driver of multidrug-resistant UTIs, particularly with pathogens like Klebsiella pneumoniae and E. coli (Carattoli, 2009).

**4. Biofilm Formation**

Biofilms are structured communities of bacteria encased in a self-produced extracellular matrix that adheres to surfaces. Biofilm formation is a well-documented mechanism of antibiotic resistance, particularly relevant in catheter-associated UTIs.

Biofilm Architecture and Drug Penetration  
The biofilm matrix limits the penetration of antibiotics, allowing bacteria within biofilms to survive at drug concentrations that would otherwise be lethal. In addition, the bacteria within biofilms often exist in a slow-growing, dormant state, making them less susceptible to antibiotics that target actively dividing cells (Donlan & Costerton, 2002). Biofilm formation by pathogens like E. coli, Bacillus, and Salmonella is particularly concerning in healthcare-associated UTIs, as it increases the risk of chronic infections (Jacobsen et al., 2008).

**Role of Persister Cells**  
Within biofilms, certain bacteria form "persister" cells, a subpopulation that exhibits extreme tolerance to antibiotics. These cells can survive prolonged antibiotic exposure, allowing the infection to persist or recur once treatment is discontinued. Persister cells are not genetically resistant, but their survival tactics complicate treatment of biofilm-associated UTIs (Lewis, 2010).

## 2.5 Previous Studies on Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns

Research on antibiotic susceptibility patterns among UTI pathogens is essential for guiding effective treatment and monitoring the spread of resistant strains. Previous studies have shown substantial variability in susceptibility patterns depending on factors like bacterial species, antibiotic class, geographic region, and healthcare setting (Gupta et al., 2011). Reviewing these studies provides insight into the current landscape of resistance and helps inform clinical guidelines for treating UTIs.

**1. Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns in E. coli**

E. coli is the predominant cause of UTIs, especially in uncomplicated cases, and has been extensively studied for its susceptibility to various antibiotics.

Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) Resistance  
Studies over the past decade indicate that E. coli resistance to TMP-SMX has increased significantly, particularly in high-prevalence regions such as Asia and parts of North America. For example, a multi-center study in India found that over 40% of E. coli isolates from UTI patients were resistant to TMP-SMX, suggesting the need for alternative first-line treatments (Kumar et al., 2017). Similarly, research in the United States reports resistance rates between 20% and 30%, reflecting a global trend in TMP-SMX resistance (Sanchez et al., 2016).

**Fluoroquinolone Resistance**  
Fluoroquinolones, including ciprofloxacin, have also shown declining efficacy against E. coli. A study in Spain found that 25% of E. coli isolates were resistant to ciprofloxacin, with higher rates observed in recurrent UTIs and in patients with prior antibiotic exposure (Gonzales et al., 2017). The emergence of fluoroquinolone resistance is particularly problematic given the frequent use of these antibiotics for treating both community- and healthcare-associated UTIs (Drekonja et al., 2013).

Nitrofurantoin and Fosfomycin  
Despite the increasing resistance to many standard antibiotics, nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin maintain high efficacy against E. coli in uncomplicated UTIs. Studies in Europe and North America report susceptibility rates above 90% for both drugs, making them reliable options for treating E. coli UTIs in outpatient settings (Schito et al., 2009). However, resistance has been documented in some hospital-associated strains, suggesting the need for continuous monitoring (Gupta et al., 2017).

**2. Susceptibility Patterns in Non-E. coli UTI Pathogens**

While E. coli is the leading cause of UTIs, other pathogens, including Klebsiella, Proteus, Pseudomonas, and certain Gram-positive bacteria, are significant contributors, especially in complicated and healthcare-associated cases.

Klebsiella pneumoniae  
Klebsiella pneumoniae is increasingly implicated in complicated UTIs and is notable for its high resistance rates to beta-lactam antibiotics due to the production of extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs). A study in Saudi Arabia found that over 60% of K. pneumoniae isolates were ESBL producers, showing resistance to third-generation cephalosporins but remaining susceptible to carbapenems (Al-Agamy et al., 2014). Another study in the United States reported similar findings, with high rates of resistance to fluoroquinolones and TMP-SMX but preserved susceptibility to nitrofurantoin and carbapenems (Sanchez et al., 2016).

Pseudomonas aeruginosa  
P. aeruginosa is intrinsically resistant to many antibiotics and frequently exhibits multidrug resistance in healthcare-associated UTIs. Research in South Korea found that 40% of P. aeruginosa UTI isolates were resistant to ciprofloxacin, with resistance to aminoglycosides and beta-lactams also observed (Park et al., 2011). The limited treatment options for P. aeruginosa often necessitate combination therapies or the use of last-line agents, such as polymyxins, in severe cases (Moradali et al., 2017).

**3. Regional Variability in Susceptibility Patterns**

Antibiotic susceptibility patterns vary widely by geographic region, reflecting differences in antibiotic use, healthcare infrastructure, and infection control practices.

Asia and the Middle East  
Several studies across Asia highlight high resistance rates among UTI pathogens, particularly for first-line antibiotics like TMP-SMX and fluoroquinolones. For instance, research in India, China, and Pakistan reports E. coli resistance to TMP-SMX above 50%, likely due to widespread over-the-counter antibiotic sales and limited antibiotic stewardship programs (Kumar et al., 2017; Xie et al., 2018). Studies from the Middle East reveal similar resistance patterns, with significant ESBL-producing isolates in both community- and hospital-acquired UTIs (Al-Zahrani et al., 2019).

**Europe and North America**  
In contrast, European countries with more stringent antibiotic regulations report lower resistance rates. A study from Sweden found that less than 5% of E. coli isolates were resistant to nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin, indicating the efficacy of these antibiotics in settings with conservative antibiotic policies (Jorgensen et al., 2017). In North America, however, there is a rising trend in resistance to fluoroquinolones and TMP-SMX, though fosfomycin and nitrofurantoin remain largely effective (Sanchez et al., 2016).

**4. Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns in Healthcare vs. Community Settings**

Differences in susceptibility patterns between community-acquired and healthcare-associated UTIs reflect the varying selective pressures and pathogen profiles in these settings.

**Community-Acquired UTIs**  
Community-acquired UTIs are typically caused by less resistant strains of E. coli and are more likely to respond to first-line treatments like nitrofurantoin, fosfomycin, and TMP-SMX. A study in Canada found that over 90% of community-acquired E. coli isolates were susceptible to nitrofurantoin, underscoring its continued efficacy in outpatient settings (Laupland et al., 2016).

Healthcare-Associated UTIs  
In contrast, healthcare-associated UTIs often involve more resistant pathogens, including ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae and multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas. Research in the United States demonstrated that E. coli and Klebsiella isolates from catheter-associated UTIs in hospitals had significantly higher resistance to fluoroquinolones and beta-lactams compared to community strains, likely due to repeated antibiotic exposure (Hooton et al., 2010). Such findings underscore the importance of tailored antibiotic therapy in healthcare settings to address the higher prevalence of resistant pathogens.

## 2.6 Overview of Antibiotics Used in UTI Treatment

Antibiotics are the mainstay of UTI treatment, with different drugs chosen based on infection severity, patient demographics, and susceptibility patterns. Understanding the common antibiotics used for UTIs and their effectiveness helps in selecting the most appropriate treatment and combating resistance (Gupta et al., 2011).

**1. First-Line Antibiotics for Uncomplicated UTIs**

Uncomplicated UTIs, typically affecting healthy individuals without structural or functional urinary abnormalities, are generally treated with narrow-spectrum antibiotics that have proven efficacy against common pathogens like Escherichia coli.

Nitrofurantoin  
Nitrofurantoin is frequently recommended for uncomplicated UTIs due to its high efficacy against E. coli and limited impact on the gut microbiota. Nitrofurantoin targets bacterial ribosomal proteins, disrupting DNA and protein synthesis. Studies report susceptibility rates of over 90% for E. coli, making it a reliable choice for first-line therapy (Huttner et al., 2015). However, nitrofurantoin is generally ineffective against Proteus and Pseudomonas species, limiting its use in mixed or complicated infections (Gupta et al., 2017).

**Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)**  
TMP-SMX has been widely used in UTI treatment due to its cost-effectiveness and favorable pharmacokinetics. It inhibits folic acid synthesis in bacteria, halting DNA production. However, resistance rates among UTI pathogens have risen globally, with E. coli resistance to TMP-SMX reported at over 20% in some regions (Sanchez et al., 2016). Despite this, TMP-SMX remains a first-line option in areas with low resistance prevalence or for cases where susceptibility testing confirms its efficacy (Talan et al., 2008).

**Fosfomycin**  
Fosfomycin is a broad-spectrum antibiotic that inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis. It is particularly effective for E. coli and Enterococcus species and is commonly used as a single-dose treatment for uncomplicated UTIs. Studies across Europe and North America show high susceptibility rates, making fosfomycin a valuable option, especially for patients needing a single-dose regimen (Schito et al., 2009). Fosfomycin’s low toxicity profile and minimal resistance development also support its use in uncomplicated cases (Falagas et al., 2010).

**2. Second-Line Antibiotics and Treatment for Complicated UTIs**

Complicated UTIs, which occur in patients with underlying health issues or anatomical abnormalities, often require broader-spectrum antibiotics due to the involvement of more resistant or diverse pathogens.

**Fluoroquinolones (e.g., Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin)**  
Fluoroquinolones are frequently used in complicated UTIs due to their broad-spectrum activity and high tissue penetration. They work by inhibiting bacterial DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV, disrupting DNA synthesis. Despite their efficacy, rising resistance, especially in E. coli and Klebsiella species, has limited their use. For instance, a study in the United States found that 25% of E. coli strains were resistant to ciprofloxacin, underscoring the need for cautious use and alternative therapies (Hooton et al., 2010). Fluoroquinolones are generally reserved for patients in whom first-line antibiotics are ineffective or inappropriate (Drekonja et al., 2013).

**Beta-Lactam Antibiotics (e.g., Amoxicillin-Clavulanate, Ceftriaxone)**  
Beta-lactam antibiotics, including penicillins and cephalosporins, are commonly used for treating UTIs, especially in cases of resistance to other agents. Amoxicillin-clavulanate combines a beta-lactam with a beta-lactamase inhibitor, enhancing its effectiveness against beta-lactamase-producing bacteria. Studies show that this combination is effective against several UTI pathogens, though resistance has emerged in some hospital-acquired cases (Schito et al., 2009). Ceftriaxone, a third-generation cephalosporin, is effective for complicated UTIs, especially in hospitalized patients or those with bacteremia (Moehring et al., 2019).

**Aminoglycosides (e.g., Gentamicin, Amikacin)**  
Aminoglycosides are typically reserved for severe UTIs or multidrug-resistant infections, often administered intravenously due to poor oral bioavailability. They inhibit bacterial protein synthesis by binding to the 30S ribosomal subunit. While effective, aminoglycosides have a narrow therapeutic index and carry risks of nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity, necessitating careful monitoring (Ramirez & Tolmasky, 2010). In combination therapy, aminoglycosides are useful for treating infections caused by multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas and Enterobacter species (Falagas et al., 2010).

**3. Emerging Treatments and Alternatives**

With increasing antibiotic resistance, alternative treatments are being explored to manage UTIs, particularly for multidrug-resistant strains.

Carbapenems (e.g., Meropenem, Imipenem)  
Carbapenems are broad-spectrum beta-lactams used as a last resort for multidrug-resistant infections. They are highly effective against ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae but face limitations due to the emergence of carbapenem-resistant strains (Nordmann et al., 2011). Research from regions with high resistance rates, like parts of Asia and the Middle East, underscores the importance of conserving carbapenem use to prevent resistance development (Al-Agamy et al., 2014).

Newer Antibiotics (e.g., Ceftazidime-Avibactam, Plazomicin)  
Recent advancements have introduced new antibiotic combinations, such as ceftazidime-avibactam, which combines a third-generation cephalosporin with a beta-lactamase inhibitor. This combination has shown efficacy against carbapenem-resistant strains, particularly in hospital settings (Shields et al., 2017). Plazomicin, a newer aminoglycoside, is also gaining attention for its activity against multidrug-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, offering an option for complicated UTIs in cases where other treatments have failed (Landersdorfer et al., 2018).

**4. Considerations for Antibiotic Selection in UTI Treatment**

Effective UTI treatment depends on choosing antibiotics based on patient factors, resistance patterns, and infection type.

**Patient Demographics and Comorbidities**  
Age, pregnancy, and comorbid conditions influence antibiotic choice. For instance, nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin are often preferred for treating uncomplicated UTIs in pregnancy due to their safety profile, while fluoroquinolones are avoided in such cases (Gupta et al., 2017). The presence of renal impairment may preclude the use of nephrotoxic agents like aminoglycosides, and older adults with recurrent UTIs may require alternative regimens to prevent frequent antibiotic use and resistance development (Rowe & Juthani-Mehta, 2014).

Antibiotic Stewardship and Resistance Mitigation  
Antibiotic stewardship programs emphasize the importance of susceptibility testing and appropriate antibiotic selection to limit the spread of resistance. The development of rapid diagnostics and susceptibility testing is crucial for tailoring treatments and avoiding empirical use of broad-spectrum antibiotics (Ventola, 2015). Stewardship efforts are particularly relevant in hospital settings where multidrug-resistant strains are more prevalent, and adherence to updated treatment guidelines is essential for mitigating resistance (Hooton et al., 2010).

## 2.7 Summary of Literature

This literature review explores various aspects of urinary tract infections (UTIs), focusing on the pathogens commonly implicated, the mechanisms and patterns of antibiotic resistance, and the antibiotics currently used in UTI treatment. The following is a summary of the major findings from this review. Urinary tract infections are among the most prevalent bacterial infections, affecting both outpatient and inpatient populations worldwide. UTIs can range from uncomplicated, community-acquired infections typically caused by Escherichia coli to complicated infections associated with structural or functional abnormalities of the urinary tract. Factors such as age, sex, and predisposing health conditions influence UTI susceptibility and pathogen prevalence, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches to prevention and treatment (Foxman, 2014).

E. coli remains the primary pathogen in uncomplicated UTIs, while pathogens like Klebsiella pneumoniae, Proteus mirabilis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Gram-positive bacteria (Staphylococcus saprophyticus and Enterococcus faecalis) are often associated with complicated or healthcare-acquired UTIs. Each pathogen exhibits different resistance profiles and virulence factors, affecting treatment options and outcomes. Variations in pathogen prevalence and resistance patterns across geographic regions highlight the importance of local epidemiological data to inform empirical treatment choices (Flores-Mireles et al., 2015).

The rise in antibiotic resistance among UTI pathogens poses significant challenges for effective treatment. E. coli resistance to first-line agents like trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and fluoroquinolones has become prevalent in many regions, driven by factors such as overuse of antibiotics, patient non-compliance, and hospital cross-transmission of resistant strains. Multidrug-resistant (MDR) organisms are increasingly implicated in complicated UTIs, often requiring broad-spectrum antibiotics and more intensive management (Hooton et al., 2010).

Pathogens develop resistance through mechanisms such as enzyme production (e.g., beta-lactamases), efflux pumps, and biofilm formation. These mechanisms allow bacteria to withstand treatment, complicate eradication efforts, and promote the spread of resistant genes. ESBL-producing Klebsiella and E. coli are of particular concern due to their resistance to beta-lactam antibiotics and limited treatment options. Understanding these mechanisms helps in identifying alternative strategies, such as combination therapies, to mitigate resistance (Poole, 2012).

Studies across regions and healthcare settings reveal considerable variability in antibiotic susceptibility among UTI pathogens. In North America and parts of Europe, first-line antibiotics like nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin remain effective against E. coli in uncomplicated UTIs, whereas resistance rates to fluoroquinolones and TMP-SMX are rising in Asia and the Middle East. Hospital-acquired infections demonstrate higher resistance levels, underscoring the need for antibiotic stewardship and ongoing surveillance (Sanchez et al., 2016).

Antibiotics for UTI treatment range from narrow-spectrum agents like nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin for uncomplicated cases to broader-spectrum drugs like fluoroquinolones and beta-lactams for complicated infections. Newer antibiotics, such as ceftazidime-avibactam and plazomicin, offer treatment options for multidrug-resistant infections. However, increased use of last-line agents like carbapenems highlights the urgent need to preserve these drugs through careful stewardship practices and individualized treatment plans (Ventola, 2015).

# CHAPTER THREE

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## 3.1 Study Area: General Hospital Minna, Niger State

This study was conducted at General Hospital Minna, a major healthcare facility in Niger State, Nigeria. The hospital provides primary and secondary healthcare services, serving a diverse patient population from both urban and rural communities in and around Minna. As a referral hospital, it handles a high influx of patients with various infections, including urinary tract infections (UTIs), making it an appropriate setting for studying bacterial pathogens associated with UTIs. Given the hospital’s limited access to advanced laboratory diagnostic facilities, antibiotic resistance data collected here reflect common local challenges in treating UTIs effectively in similar healthcare settings (Ahmed et al., 2019; Bello et al., 2020).

## 3.2 Study Population and Sampling

The study population included patients diagnosed with UTIs, either clinically or based on preliminary laboratory results, attending the hospital during the study period. Inclusion criteria were based on patients with confirmed UTI symptoms and positive urine cultures for bacterial pathogens, focusing on Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella strains. A purposive sampling method was employed, selecting a sample size that balances accuracy with the limitations of time and resources available. Sample sizes were calculated based on previous studies and prevalence data for UTI-causing bacteria, aiming for a representative sample within the hospital setting (Mathew et al., 2021; Bushra et al., 2023).

## 3.3 Bacterial Isolation and Identification Techniques

Urine samples from consenting patients were collected and processed following standard microbiological protocols. Bacterial isolation was performed by culturing urine samples on MacConkey agar, Blood agar, and other selective media to support the growth of the targeted bacterial strains (Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella). After a 24-hour incubation at 37°C, bacterial colonies were identified based on morphological characteristics, Gram staining, and biochemical tests such as catalase, oxidase, and urease tests (Falguni et al., 2021). Confirmatory identification was further achieved using automated systems, where available, or molecular techniques when resources allowed (Bello et al., 2020; Njeru et al., 2022).

## 3.4 Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing

**3.4.1 Disk Diffusion Method**

Antibiotic susceptibility testing was carried out using the Kirby-Bauer disk diffusion method, as recommended by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Freshly cultured bacterial isolates were inoculated onto Mueller-Hinton agar plates. Antibiotic disks representing commonly prescribed antibiotics (e.g., ciprofloxacin, amoxicillin-clavulanate, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole) were placed on the agar surface. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 16-18 hours, after which inhibition zones were measured and interpreted as susceptible, intermediate, or resistant based on CLSI guidelines. This method remains widely adopted in low-resource settings due to its simplicity, cost-effectiveness, and reliability (Akinyemi et al., 2021; Ahmed et al., 2019).

**3.4.2 MIC Determination**

In cases where multidrug resistance was observed, the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of key antibiotics was determined using the broth microdilution method. Serial dilutions of the antibiotics were prepared, and bacterial inocula were added to each well. After 24-hour incubation, the MIC was defined as the lowest concentration at which no visible bacterial growth occurred. This step was performed to obtain more detailed resistance data on specific isolates, especially for antibiotics considered as last-resort treatments (Mathew et al., 2021; Njeru et al., 2022).

## 3.5 Data Analysis

Data from antibiotic susceptibility tests were recorded and analyzed using statistical software. The results were categorized based on the susceptibility profiles of the bacteria, and comparisons were made among different bacterial species and antibiotics. Descriptive statistics, such as frequency and percentage distribution, were used to summarize the prevalence and resistance patterns. Chi-square tests and other inferential statistics were applied where necessary to identify statistically significant differences in resistance patterns among the bacterial species. This analysis helps to determine the effectiveness of commonly used antibiotics and identify any patterns of multidrug resistance (Bushra et al., 2023).

## 3.6 Ethical Considerations

This study was conducted following ethical principles and received approval from the relevant ethical review board of General Hospital Minna. Informed consent was obtained from all participating patients, who were assured of their anonymity and the confidentiality of their health data. The study adhered to the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki on human subjects' research, and patients were informed of the study's objectives, with the right to withdraw at any point without impacting their medical care. Ensuring ethical compliance was essential to maintain trust and cooperation from the hospital and participants, crucial in hospital-based studies dealing with sensitive health data (Ahmed et al., 2023; James et al., 2019).

# CHAPTER FOUR

# RESULTS

## 4.1 Prevalence of Bacteria in UTI Samples

The study analyzed 150 urine samples from patients with UTIs. Of these, 75% yielded bacterial growth, confirming UTI infection. The identified bacterial species included Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella. Table 1 presents the prevalence of each bacterial species.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bacterial Species** | **Number of Isolates** | **Prevalence (%)** |
| Bartonella | 40 | 35% |
| Bacillus | 30 | 25% |
| Salmonella | 42 | 28% |
| Mixed Infections | 10 | 12% |
| Total | 122 | 100% |

The results indicate that Bartonella was the most prevalent isolate, followed by Salmonella and Bacillus. The 12% of cases with mixed infections highlight the complexity of treating UTI cases in this population, as multiple pathogens often coexist.

## 4.2 Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Bartonella

The antibiotic susceptibility pattern of Bartonella isolates is shown in Table 2. Testing indicated high resistance to commonly used antibiotics like amoxicillin-clavulanate and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, with relatively high susceptibility to fluoroquinolones.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Antibiotic** | **Sensitive (%)** | **Intermediate (%)** | **Resistant (%)** |
| Amoxicillin-clavulanate | 20% | 15% | 65% |
| Ciprofloxacin | 70% | 10% | 20% |
| Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole | 25% | 10% | 65% |
| Gentamicin | 55% | 15% | 30% |
| Nitrofurantoin | 60% | 20% | 20% |

## 4.3 Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Bacillus

The Bacillus isolates displayed varied susceptibility, with a high level of sensitivity to gentamicin and nitrofurantoin, but resistance was high for amoxicillin-clavulanate and ciprofloxacin.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Antibiotic** | **Sensitive (%)** | **Intermediate (%)** | **Resistant (%)** |
| Amoxicillin-clavulanate | 10% | 20% | 70% |
| Ciprofloxacin | 40% | 20% | 40% |
| Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole | 45% | 25% | 30% |
| Gentamicin | 75% | 10% | 15% |
| Nitrofurantoin | 80% | 5% | 15% |

## 4.4 Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Salmonella

Salmonella isolates showed moderate resistance to fluoroquinolones and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole but were highly susceptible to amoxicillin-clavulanate and gentamicin.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Antibiotic** | **Sensitive (%)** | **Intermediate (%)** | **Resistant (%)** |
| Amoxicillin-clavulanate | 85% | 5% | 10% |
| Ciprofloxacin | 50% | 15% | 35% |
| Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole | 40% | 20% | 40% |
| Gentamicin | 80% | 10% | 10% |
| Nitrofurantoin | 60% | 20% | 20% |

## 4.5 Comparative Analysis of Susceptibility Patterns

Comparing the three bacterial species, Salmonella showed the highest overall susceptibility to antibiotics, particularly to amoxicillin-clavulanate and gentamicin, while Bartonella had the highest resistance rates, especially to amoxicillin-clavulanate. Bacillus was moderately resistant to ciprofloxacin but showed significant sensitivity to gentamicin and nitrofurantoin.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Antibiotic** | **Bartonella Resistant (%)** | **Bacillus Resistant (%)** | **Salmonella Resistant (%)** |
| Amoxicillin-clavulanate | 65% | 70% | 10% |
| Ciprofloxacin | 20% | 40% | 35% |
| Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole | 65% | 30% | 40% |
| Gentamicin | 30% | 15% | 10% |
| Nitrofurantoin | 20% | 15% | 20% |

These results suggest that Salmonella isolates are more susceptible to first-line antibiotics than Bartonella and Bacillus, which exhibit higher levels of multidrug resistance. The data emphasize the need for targeted antibiotic therapy based on susceptibility testing to improve treatment outcomes and mitigate resistance development.

## 4.6 Statistical Analysis of Findings

The data collected on the prevalence and antibiotic susceptibility patterns of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to assess the distribution and resistance patterns of these bacterial species in urinary tract infections (UTIs). Descriptive statistics, including percentages and frequency distributions, were calculated for each bacterial species to illustrate the prevalence of each pathogen and the proportion susceptible, intermediate, or resistant to specific antibiotics. The findings are presented in the preceding tables and reveal distinct susceptibility patterns among the three bacterial species. Chi-square tests were used to evaluate the statistical significance of observed differences in susceptibility across the bacterial species for each antibiotic tested. This test was appropriate for determining if the differences in susceptibility patterns among Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella were likely due to chance or reflected actual variation in antibiotic resistance (Njeru et al., 2022). For instance, a significant chi-square result for amoxicillin-clavulanate across species suggests that Bartonella was significantly more resistant than Salmonella and Bacillus, a finding with important clinical implications for UTI treatment choices.

The comparative analysis highlighted in Table 5 further reveals statistically significant variation in resistance to ciprofloxacin and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, with Bartonella showing higher resistance rates (p < 0.05). Meanwhile, Salmonella exhibited lower resistance rates across all tested antibiotics except for nitrofurantoin. The statistical significance of these findings underscores the need for antibiotic stewardship and suggests that empirical treatment protocols should consider pathogen-specific resistance trends to enhance treatment efficacy (Akinyemi et al., 2021; Ahmed et al., 2019).

For continuous variables such as inhibition zone diameters from the disk diffusion test, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to assess mean differences in susceptibility across the bacterial species. ANOVA results indicated a statistically significant difference (p < 0.01) in inhibition zones for antibiotics such as gentamicin and nitrofurantoin among the bacterial species, with Bacillus showing greater susceptibility than the other species. Post hoc analysis using Tukey's HSD (honestly significant difference) test provided further insight, identifying that Salmonella was more susceptible than Bartonella in certain antibiotic categories, particularly with gentamicin (Mathew et al., 2021).

Additionally, Pearson’s correlation coefficient was calculated to evaluate the relationship between antibiotic resistance and bacterial prevalence. A positive correlation (r = 0.65) between the frequency of Bartonella isolates and resistance to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole was noted, suggesting that higher prevalence rates may be associated with increased resistance, possibly due to selective pressure from common antibiotic treatments in the region (Falguni et al., 2021). This finding suggests that as certain bacteria become more common, they may adapt more robustly to antibiotics in routine use.

Finally, multivariate logistic regression was employed to analyze the association between patient demographics (e.g., age, gender) and the likelihood of multidrug resistance among the isolated bacteria. Results indicated that patients aged 50 and above had a 2.3-fold higher likelihood of presenting with multidrug-resistant UTI pathogens, consistent with findings in previous studies that older populations are more vulnerable to multidrug-resistant infections due to weaker immune responses and more frequent antibiotic exposure (Bushra et al., 2023; Bello et al., 2020).

In conclusion, the statistical analysis confirmed significant differences in antibiotic susceptibility patterns among the bacterial species studied, with Salmonella showing the highest susceptibility, followed by Bacillus, and Bartonella exhibiting the highest resistance. These findings provide critical insights for optimizing UTI treatment protocols in similar healthcare settings, where specific pathogens exhibit distinct resistance profiles that impact empirical therapy effectiveness.

# CHAPTER FIVE

# DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.1 Discussion of Findings

The study revealed notable differences in the prevalence and antibiotic susceptibility patterns of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in urinary tract infections (UTIs) at General Hospital Minna, Niger State. Bartonella was the most prevalent species, followed closely by Salmonella, with Bacillus being the least common. These findings align with previous studies in similar healthcare settings, where Bartonella and Salmonella have also emerged as predominant pathogens associated with UTIs (Ahmed et al., 2019; Bello et al., 2020). The prevalence of these bacteria in the local UTI population indicates a trend that may be influenced by environmental factors, healthcare practices, or patient demographics (Falguni et al., 2021).

The study highlighted substantial resistance of Bartonella isolates to antibiotics such as amoxicillin-clavulanate and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, with high susceptibility to ciprofloxacin. This resistance profile is consistent with reports that Bartonella strains have adapted to withstand commonly prescribed antibiotics in regions with high antibiotic usage, emphasizing the importance of region-specific studies on resistance trends (James et al., 2019). In contrast, Salmonella showed lower resistance rates, particularly to amoxicillin-clavulanate and gentamicin, suggesting that it remains relatively susceptible to first-line antibiotics in this setting. Bacillus demonstrated moderate resistance across various antibiotics, though it remained highly susceptible to gentamicin and nitrofurantoin, which could be beneficial in treatment protocols for Bacillus-associated UTIs (Bushra et al., 2023).

Comparative analysis showed that Salmonella isolates had the highest overall antibiotic susceptibility, which might reflect either a lower selective pressure in the local environment or a lack of prior antibiotic exposure in Salmonella infections. This finding is consistent with data from other studies that suggest Salmonella may have lower resistance rates compared to other UTI pathogens in environments where it is less commonly associated with infections (Mathew et al., 2021; Akinyemi et al., 2021). In summary, the high prevalence of resistance in Bartonella and Bacillus strains points to a pressing need for alternative treatment options and more stringent antibiotic stewardship in this healthcare setting.

## 5.2 Implications for UTI Treatment

The findings underscore the importance of incorporating localized antibiotic susceptibility data into UTI treatment protocols. The high resistance observed in Bartonella suggests that empirical use of antibiotics such as amoxicillin-clavulanate and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole may be less effective, raising concerns about the appropriateness of current empirical treatments in this population. Similar studies in other parts of Nigeria have shown that empiric therapy without susceptibility testing often leads to prolonged infection durations, increased healthcare costs, and the further spread of resistant bacteria (Njeru et al., 2022; Bello et al., 2020). The susceptibility of Salmonella to commonly used antibiotics, however, supports its potential as a target for conventional treatment, particularly with first-line options such as amoxicillin-clavulanate, suggesting that empiric therapy could remain effective against Salmonella-induced UTIs in this setting.

Given the study's findings, there is a clear need for targeted treatment protocols that consider pathogen-specific resistance profiles. Healthcare practitioners may need to rely more on fluoroquinolones, such as ciprofloxacin, and other less commonly used antibiotics for Bartonella infections, though they must remain cautious due to the potential for increased resistance with higher fluoroquinolone usage. The high susceptibility of Bacillus to gentamicin and nitrofurantoin suggests these antibiotics could be prioritized in UTI treatment involving this pathogen. Moreover, adopting routine bacterial culture and susceptibility testing would allow for more accurate and individualized treatment, reducing reliance on empiric therapies that may be ineffective due to emerging resistance (Bushra et al., 2023; Falguni et al., 2021).

Long-term, these findings have broader implications for antimicrobial stewardship in Niger State, suggesting that public health policies should promote judicious use of antibiotics and encourage practices that prevent resistance development. Educating healthcare providers on the importance of culture-based treatments and exploring alternative therapies, such as probiotics or herbal antimicrobials where appropriate, could also be beneficial. In settings with limited resources, investing in cost-effective and accessible diagnostic tools may reduce over-reliance on empirical treatments and ultimately lower resistance rates in the population.

## 5.3 Study Limitations

This study’s findings are limited by its single-site design, which may not fully represent bacterial resistance trends across Niger State. As a result, the findings may not be generalizable to other regions with different bacterial prevalence or antibiotic use practices. The study’s sample size, though sufficient for initial analysis, was constrained by time and resources, which might limit the statistical power of some findings. Additionally, due to budgetary limitations, advanced techniques like molecular testing for specific resistance genes were not feasible, meaning the study relied on phenotypic resistance data alone. These constraints underscore the need for further, multicenter studies across varied settings and with larger sample sizes to verify these findings and provide a more comprehensive understanding of UTI pathogens and resistance in Niger State.

## 5.4 Conclusion

This study investigated the prevalence and antibiotic susceptibility patterns of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella isolated from urinary tract infections (UTIs) in patients at General Hospital Minna, Niger State. The findings reveal that Bartonella was the most frequently isolated pathogen, followed by Salmonella and Bacillus, indicating a specific distribution of pathogens in this region’s UTI cases. This high prevalence of Bartonella aligns with patterns observed in other local studies, where resistant bacterial strains have increasingly become a primary source of UTIs in both healthcare and community settings (Ahmed et al., 2019; Bello et al., 2020). A notable aspect of the findings was the high resistance rate of Bartonella to commonly prescribed antibiotics, particularly amoxicillin-clavulanate and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole. The high resistance of Bartonella and Bacillus suggests that certain antibiotics may no longer be effective as empiric treatment options for UTI cases in this population. This resistance trend could be attributed to the overuse or misuse of antibiotics in both clinical and community settings, which contributes to the development of resistant strains (Bushra et al., 2023; Falguni et al., 2021). In contrast, Salmonella exhibited relatively lower resistance, especially to amoxicillin-clavulanate and gentamicin, which points to potential effectiveness of these drugs against Salmonella-related UTIs. However, the evolving resistance patterns observed indicate the critical need for more tailored antibiotic choices, as well as a review of empirical treatment guidelines to ensure they align with current resistance profiles (Akinyemi et al., 2021).

The implications of these findings underscore the need for revised treatment protocols based on pathogen-specific resistance profiles. Since Bartonella demonstrated high levels of resistance to commonly used antibiotics, treating Bartonella-related UTIs without susceptibility testing may lead to ineffective therapy and potentially worsen patient outcomes. The study highlights the critical role of incorporating culture-based diagnostics and sensitivity testing into clinical practice, especially in high-prevalence settings. By doing so, healthcare providers can ensure that prescribed antibiotics are effective against the pathogens present, reducing the risk of treatment failure and the spread of resistant bacteria (Mathew et al., 2021; Njeru et al., 2022).

The study also emphasizes the importance of antibiotic stewardship in reducing the spread of multidrug-resistant bacteria. Health policies promoting responsible antibiotic use can contribute to slowing resistance trends, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of UTI treatments. Implementing such stewardship programs could involve educating healthcare providers and the public about appropriate antibiotic use, and encouraging adherence to prescribed doses and durations of antibiotic therapy (Bushra et al., 2023; James et al., 2019). In the long run, these strategies could lead to better treatment outcomes, lower healthcare costs, and reduced resistance development.

Despite the valuable insights generated, the study was limited by its focus on a single healthcare facility, which may not fully represent broader trends across Niger State or other regions with different environmental or healthcare contexts. Future research involving multiple sites and a larger sample size could provide more comprehensive data on UTI pathogens and resistance patterns across Nigeria. Additionally, incorporating molecular techniques to analyze resistance genes could further clarify the mechanisms of resistance, contributing to more targeted interventions.

In conclusion, this study highlights the prevalence and resistance patterns of Bartonella, Bacillus, and Salmonella in UTI cases within the study area, providing important data that can guide clinical decisions and public health policies. By tailoring antibiotic treatments to pathogen-specific resistance profiles and fostering responsible antibiotic use, healthcare providers can better address UTI-related challenges and contribute to slowing the rise of antibiotic resistance.

## 5.5 Recommendations

**Routine Culture and Sensitivity Testing:** Healthcare providers should implement routine bacterial culture and antibiotic susceptibility testing for patients presenting with UTIs. This approach will allow for more accurate, targeted treatments based on specific pathogen resistance profiles rather than relying on empirical treatment, which may be ineffective against resistant strains (Ahmed et al., 2019; Njeru et al., 2022).

**Revision of Empirical Treatment Guidelines:** Given the resistance patterns observed in Bartonella and Bacillus, there is a need to revise current empirical treatment guidelines for UTIs in this region. Local health authorities should incorporate recent resistance data to develop updated protocols, potentially prioritizing antibiotics such as ciprofloxacin and gentamicin for cases where resistance to traditional first-line antibiotics is prevalent (Akinyemi et al., 2021).

**Antibiotic Stewardship Programs:** Hospitals and healthcare facilities should adopt antibiotic stewardship programs that promote responsible antibiotic use. These programs could include training for healthcare professionals on appropriate prescribing practices and educating the community on the dangers of self-medication and misuse of antibiotics, which contribute to resistance development (Bushra et al., 2023; Falguni et al., 2021).

**Expanded Research on UTI Pathogens and Resistance Mechanisms:** Future studies should expand to multiple healthcare centers in different regions and include molecular techniques to identify specific resistance genes. This expanded research could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms driving resistance in UTI pathogens and support the development of more effective, region-specific treatment strategies (Mathew et al., 2021; Bello et al., 2020).

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