THE URINARY MICROBIOME OF WOMEN WITH URINARY URGENCY INCONTINENCE

Hypothesis/Aims of Study:
Using the quantitative polymerase chain reaction, we recently detected bacterial DNA in pre-treatment catheterized urine samples of female participants with urinary urgency incontinence (UUI) in the NICHD Anticholinergic versus Botulinum Toxin Comparison (ABC) Trial. The presence of bacterial DNA was associated with decreased risk of post-treatment urinary tract infection (UTI) (1,2). The objective of this study was to use DNA sequencing to characterize bacterial communities in the urine of women without clinical infection before UUI study treatment and to explore associations with patient demographics, symptoms and clinical outcomes, especially post-treatment development of UTI.

Study Design, Materials and Methods:
Bacterial DNA was extracted from catheterized urine samples and amplified with universal primers that target the V4 region of the 16S ribosomal RNA gene. Samples were sequenced at least twice independently with Illumina’s MiSeq technology to assure data quality and reproducibility. Sequence reads were classified to bacterial genus. Sequence status was compared to clinical variables.

Results:
Bacterial DNA was successfully amplified and sequenced in about half (51.1%, n=93/182, SEQ POS) of the urines. Race, ethnicity, prior anticholinergic use, or treatment did not differ between SEQ POS and SEQ NEG cohorts. However, women in the SEQ POS cohort were younger (p=0.0007), heavier (p=0.0009), had more baseline UUI episodes (p<0.0001), responded better to UUI treatment (p=0.0013), and were less likely to develop UTI after initiation of UUI treatment (p=0.0011).

In SEQ POS urines, 8 major groups (termed urotypes) were identified. Most were dominated by a single bacterial genus (>50% total sequence reads). Nearly half of the SEQ POS urines (45%) were dominated by Lactobacillus, followed by Gardnerella (17%), Gardnerella and Prevotella (9%), Enterobacteriaceae (9%), Staphylococcus (3%), Aerococcus (2%), and Bifidobacterium (2%).

The rest (13%) were diverse without a dominant family (Fig. 1). Race and ethnicity were similar across urotypes, but age differed (p=0.0094); urotypes dominated by Enterobacteriaceae, Staphylococcus & Aerococcus were only in post-menopausal women. Relative to SEQ POS women who did not develop a post-treatment UTI, those who did develop a UTI had, on average, fewer Lactobacillus (20.6 vs 47.3% of total sequences per sample) and less diversity, but more Aerococcus (9.6 vs 1.2%), Bifidobacterium (9.8 vs 0.6%), Enterobacteriaceae (20.0 vs 6.9%), and Staphylococcus (9.1 vs 2.5%) (Fig. 2).

Interpretation of Results: Over half of female ABC trial participants with UUI, without evidence of clinical infection, contained sequenceable bacterial DNA in pre-treatment urines. The urotypes were typically dominated by a single genus, most often Lactobacillus or Gardnerella. Pre-treatment urotypes may be associated with risk of post-treatment UTI.

Concluding Message:
The female urinary microbiome is related to clinical treatment outcomes of interest in women with UUI.
Figure 1. The urinary microbiome profile of sequence positive participants. The urinary microbiome profiles of sequence positive participants clustered together, as demonstrated in the dendrogram (top), and by the dominant bacterial taxa present, as depicted in the histogram (bottom). The dendrogram was based on the Euclidean distance between the sequence profile of each urine. The histogram displays the bacterial taxa detected by sequencing as the percentage of sequences per urine by sequence positive participants (N=93). Bacteria were classified to the genus level with the exception of Enterobacteriaceae and Lachnospiraceae, which could only be classified to the family level. The 15 most sequence abundant bacterial taxa were displayed and the remainder of the taxa, including unclassified sequences, were grouped into the category “Other”. Urine samples consisting of the same dominant bacterial taxa grouped together in the dendrogram and were classified into the following urotypes, as shown by the dashed horizontal line: Lactobacillus, Gardnerella, Pseudomonas, Enterobacteriaceae, Staphylococcus, Aerococcus and diverse.

Fig 2. Comparison of average bacterial sequence abundance by post-treatment clinical UTI occurrence

Discussions

References


Disclosures

Funding: none Clinical Trial: Yes Registration Number: Clinicaltrials.gov #NCT01166438 RCT: Yes Subjects: HUMAN Ethics Committee: IRB, Loyola University Chicago Helsinki: Yes Informed Consent: Yes