

methyl- -D-glucopyranoside

## Use of Methyl- -D-glucopyranoside Test for Species Identification of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci

Mi-Na Kim, M.D., Heung-Sub Sung, M.D., Jun Seok Park, M.D. and Chik Hyun Pai, M.D.

Department of Clinical Pathology, University of Ulsan College of Medicine  
and Asan Medical Center, Seoul, Korea

**Background :** The precise identification of *Enterococcus gallinarum* and *E. casseliflavus* has assumed additional importance in clinical microbiology due to the intrinsic low-level resistance to vancomycin and the difficulty in differentiating them from *E. faecium* or *E. faecalis*, which are frequently found to be clinically significant vancomycin resistant enterococci(VRE). We evaluated the usefulness of Methyl- -D-glucopyranoside(MDG) test for accurate species identification among them.

**Methods :** A total of 23 enterococci isolates including 18 clinical isolates of VRE from Nov 1997 to Aug 1998 and 5 VRE strains which had previously been reported as *E. faecalis* (2), *E. faecium*(2), *E. avium*(1) carrying *vanC* were tested for acidification of MDG. MDG test was done using 1% MDG in phenol red broth base and yellow coloration was interpreted as positive after 1 and 2 days of incubation at 35 . MDG results were compared with species identification by MicroScan Pos Combo type 6 (Dade, USA), motility test, pigment production, and PCR results of *vanA*, *vanB*, *vanC1*, *vanC2/C3*.

**Results :** Vancomycin resistance of 23 strains were genotyped as 7 strains of *vanA*, 12 strains of *vanC1*, 4 strains of *vanC2/C3*. MicroScan identified 7 *vanA* VRE as *E. faecalis*(1) and *E. faecium*(6), 12 VRE carrying *vanC1* as *E. faecalis*(3), *E. faecium*(8) and *E. avium*(1), and 4 VRE carrying *vanC2/C3* as *E. faecalis*(3) and *E. avium*(1). Sixteen *vanC* VRE strains were all positive for MDG test and only 8(50%) of the 16 strains were motile. Yellow pigment were detected in all 4 *vanC2/C3* VRE but only after a careful examination with a prolonged incubation. Seven *vanA* VRE were all negative in MDG tests, motility test and pigment production.

**Conclusions :** MicroScan system plus motility and pigment production test was not able to differentiate reliably *E. gallinarum* and *E. casseliflavus* from *E. faecalis* and *E. faecium*. The MDG test was shown to be superior to motility test in differentiating those from *E. faecalis* and *E. faecium*. We conclude that the MDG test should be included for identification of VRE.

(Korean J Clin Microbiol 1999;2:71~76)

**Key words :** Methyl- -D-glucopyranoside, Vancomycin resistant enterococci(VRE), *vanC*, Species identification

: 1999 1 21 : CM99-15  
: 1999 2 22  
:  
(136-736) 388-1

: 02-2224-4511 Fax : 02-488-0884

-lactams, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides

가 ,  
 -lactams glycopeptides aminoglycosides  
 가 가 [1].  
 가  
 [2], 1992 2  
 10%가  
*Staphylococcus* spp., *Escherichia coli*,  
*Klebsiella pneumoniae* 가 [3].  
 Glycopeptide (vancomycin  
 resistant enterococci; VRE) 가 가  
 가  
 VRE 가  
 1997 , 1998  
 2-3.2%[4,5],  
 7.7% [6]  
 VRE 가  
 3가  
 . *vanA*  
 , *vanB*  
 2가 *vanA*, *vanB*  
*E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*  
 [7,8] 가 . *vanC*  
 . *vanC1* *E. gallinarum* , *vanC2/3* *E.*  
*casseliflavus*, *E. mundtii*, *E. flavescens*  
*vanC* VRE 가  
 [9]. VRE 가  
*vanC* VRE  
 [10], *E. faecalis* *E. faecium*  
 가 . *E.*  
*gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus*  
 가  
*E. gallinarum* *E.*  
*faecium* [11].  
 VRE *E.*  
*faecium* 33 11  
*E. gallinarum* 16S rDNA  
 [12]. Devriese methyl-  
 -D-glucopyranoside(MDG)가 *E. gallinarum* *E.*  
*casseliflavus* *E. faecalis* *E. faecium*  
 가 [13],  
 [12,14]. 1996

VRE 13  
 VRE *vanC* 가 9  
*E. faecium*(3), *E. faecalis* (2), *E.*  
*avium*(1) 가 6 [5],  
 VRE *vanC* VRE  
 VRE MDG  
 1.  
 97 11 98 8  
 6 µg/mL  
 brain heart infusion(BHI)  
 VRE 18 [5] *vanC1*  
*E. faecalis*(2), *E. faecium*(2), *E. avium*(1)  
 5 BHI -70 20% glycerol  
 가,  
 2.  
 MicroScan Pos Combo type 6(Dade, USA)  
 , MDG  
 가 30 MIO  
 1 2  
 3. MDG  
 Phenol red broth base 1% MDG(Sigma, St. Louis. Mo.)  
 가 35  
 1 2  
*E. gallinarum* VR42 ,  
*E. faecalis* ATCC 29212  
 4. (polymerase chain reaction; PCR)  
*VanA*, *vanB*, *vanC1*, *vanC2*  
 multiplex PCR [6]  
*vanC2* *vanC2* *vanC3*  
*vanC2* *vanC3*  
*vanA* : A1 5'-GCGGTATTGGGAAACAGTGCC-3',  
 A2 5'-GCGGTCAATCAGTTCGGGAAGTGC-3',  
*vanB* : B1 5'-GTTTAGAACGATGCCGCCATCC-3',  
 B2 5'-GGAATGGGAAGCCGATAGTCTCC-3'

Table 1. Speciation of VRE by MicroScan, PCR analysis of the resistance gene and MDG acidification test

Identification by MicroScan	PCR	MDG	Motility	Pigment	Final Identification
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	-	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	-	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i> *	<i>vanC1</i>	+	-	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecium</i> *	<i>vanC1</i>	+	-	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i> *	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i> *	<i>vanC1</i>	+	-	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. avium</i> *	<i>vanC1</i>	+	+	-	<i>E. gallinarum</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanC2/3</i>	+	-	+	<i>E. casseliflavus/flavescens</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanC2/3</i>	+	-	+	<i>E. casseliflavus/flavescens</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanC2/3</i>	+	-	+	<i>E. casseliflavus/flavescens</i>
<i>E. avium</i>	<i>vanC2/3</i>	+	+	+	<i>E. casseliflavus/flavescens</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecium</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecium</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecium</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecium</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecium</i>
<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecium</i>
<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>vanA</i>	-	-	-	<i>E. faecalis</i>

\* [5]

vanC1 : C11 5'-CCCACCTTGCTTTTATCCCGC-3',  
 C12 5'-ACCCGTCAATCCCAAGTTTCG-3',  
 vanC2 : C21 5'-CCTCTCTTTGATCGGGATCGCC-3',  
 C22 5'-TGCAGCTTGATGCAGCAGCC-3'

*faecalis* V583(*vanB*), *E. gallinarum* VR42(*vanC1*)  
*vanC1*  
*E. gallinarum* , *vanC2/C3* *E. casseliflavus/flavescens*

DNA 3-4 100 µL VRE 10,000g 1. PCR  
 30 50 µL DNA VRE 23 *vanA* 7 , *vanC1* 12 ,  
 1 µL, Taq polymerase(GenoTech Co. Korea) 2.5 unit, *vanC2/C3* 4 (Table 1).  
 PCR (10mM Tris-HCl[pH8.3], 50mM KCl), 1.5mM 2. MicroScan , PCR, MDG , ,  
 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, dNTP(dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP 0.2 mM), 50 pmol . Perkin-Elmer 9600  
 94 5 , 94 30  
 , 60 1 , 72 1 VRE 18 11 (61.1%)  
 30 72 5 *vanC* 5  
*vanA*, *vanB*, *vanC1*, *vanC2* 2.5% agarose gel *vanC* 16 MicroScan *E.*  
 356bp, 741bp, 429bp, 322bp *faecium*, *E. faecalis*, *E. avium* . *E.*  
*E. faecalis* A256(*vanA*), *E. gallinarum* *E. faecalis*(3), *E. faecium*(8) *E. avium* (1)

, *E. casseliflavus/flavescens* *E. faecalis* (3)  
*E. avium*(1) . MDG  
*vanA* *E. faecalis*(1) *E. faecium*(6)  
, *E. gallinarum* *E. casseliflavus*  
PCR  
*E. gallinarum* 12 7 (58%), *E. casseliflavus/flavescens* 4 1 . *vanA*  
, MDG  
, PCR *vanC2/C3*  
2  
MDG 23 VRE  
*E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*  
, *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus*  
PCR . MDG  
Devriese [13] *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* *E. faecium*  
. MDG *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* *E. avium* species (*E. avium*, *E. pseudoavium*, *E. raffinosus*, *E. malodoratus*) *E. columbae*, *E. sulfureus*, *E. dispar*, *E. saccharolyticus* , *E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*, *E. mundtii*, *E. durans*, *E. hirae*  
[13].  
MDG  
phenol red broth base methyl-  
-D-glucopyranoside 1%가 가  
가  
MicroScan *vanC* VRE  
MicroScan  
*vanC* VRE가  
가가 . *vanC* VRE *E. gallinarum* 12 7 (58%), *E. casseliflavus/flavescens* 4 1  
*E. gallinarum* *E. casseliflavus/flavescens*  
VRE  
VRE 가 ,  
[9].  
*vanC* VRE  
*vanA*, *vanB* VRE 가  
*vanA*, *vanB* VRE  
*vanA*, *vanB* VRE *E. faecium* [21].  
*E.*

*gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus*  
[10]. *E. gallinarum* 12 MicroScan  
8 가 *E. faecium* , 3 *E. faecalis*  
Facklam [15] groupII  
. *vanC*  
가 [16],  
PCR  
가  
가 [17],  
가  
[18]. *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus*  
가  
가 , xylose , MDG  
[12,19]. *E. gallinarum*  
xylose  
, *E. casseliflavus/flavescens*  
MDG  
VRE  
MDG 가 PCR  
가 *vanC* VRE가  
. 20 18  
VRE 11 가 *vanC* VRE  
. 가  
VRE *vanA* VRE가 7  
0.5% . *vanA*, *vanB*  
VRE VRE가  
*vanC* VRE가  
VRE VRE  
*vanC* VRE  
. *vanC*  
가 가  
가 [9]. *VanCI*  
, [20]  
. *E. faecium*  
[21]. *vanC* 가  
, PCR *vanCI*

*E. faecium* *E. faecalis*가 , *vanC2/C3* 4 , MicroScan *vanA* Dutka-Malen D-ala-D-ala ligase PCR *E. faecium* *E. faecalis* [22]. *vanC* VRE *E. faecium* *E. faecalis*가 *vanC*가 *vanC*가 , *vanA* , MDG Dutka-Malen [16] *E. faecalis*, :MicroScan 가 PCR *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* *vanC* VRE MDG VRE MDG 가 MicroScan *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* *E. faecalis* *E. faecium* , 가 50% *vanC* VRE MDG *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* *E. faecalis* *E. faecium* VRE 가 VRE 가 *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* VRE *E. faecalis* *E. faecium* *faecium* 가 VRE MDG :97 11 98 8 VRE 18 *vanC1* *E. faecalis*(2), *E. faecium* 5 MDG phenol red broth base 1% MDG 가 35 1 2 . MDG MicroScan Combo type 6(Dade, USA) , *vanA*, *vanB*, *vanC1*, *vanC2/C3* (PCR) : VRE 24 *vanA* 7 , *vanC1* 12

*E. faecalis*(1) *E. faecium*(6), *vanC1* *E. faecalis* (3), *E. faecium*(8) *E. avium*(1), *vanC2/C3* *E. faecalis* (3) *E. avium*(1) . *vanC1* 12 *vanC2/C3* 4 MDG *vanC1* 7 (58%) *vanC2/C3* 1 *vanC2/C3* 2 *vanA* , MDG :MicroScan 가 *E. gallinarum*, *E. casseliflavus* MDG VRE MDG 가 1. Krogstad DJ, Korfhagen TR, Moellering RC Jr, Wennersten C, Swartz MN. Aminoglycoside-inactivating enzymes in clinical isolates of *Streptococcus faecalis*: an explanation for resistance to antibiotic synergism. *J Clin Invest* 1978;62:480-6. 2. Schaberg DR, Culver DH, Gaynes RP. Major trends in the microbial etiology of nosocomial infection. *Am J Med* 1991;91:72S-75S. 3. , , , , . 1993;25:333-42. 4. , , , , , . vancomycin 1998;3:41-7. 5. , . 1997; 17:743-56. 6. , , . Vancomycin 1998;18:51-6. 7. Chow JW, Kuritza A, Shlaea DM, Green M, Sahn DF, Zervos MJ. Clonal spread of vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium* between patients in three hospitals in two states. *J Clin Microbiol* 1993;31:1609-11. 8. Pegues DA, Pegues CF, Hibberd PL, Ford DS, Hooper DC. Emergence and dissemination of a highly vancomycin-resistant *vanA* strain of *Enterococcus faecium* at a large teaching hospital. *J Clin Microbiol* 1997;35: 1565-70. 9. Toye B, Shymanski J, Bobrowska M, Woods W, Ramotar K. Clinical and epidemiologic significance of enterococci intrinsically resistant to vancomycin(Possessing the *vanC* genotype). *J Clin Microbiol* 1997;35: 3166-70. 10. Swenson JM, Clark NC, Ferraro MJ, Sahn DF, Doern G,

- Pfaller MA, et al. *Development of a standardized screening method for detection of vancomycin-resistant enterococci. J Clin Microbiol* 1994;32:1700-4.
11. Carvalho MDGS, Teixeira LM, Facklam R. *Use of tests for acidification of methyl-<sup>-</sup>D-Glucopyranoside and susceptibility to efrotomycin for differentiation of strains of Enterococcus and some related genera. J Clin Microbiol* 1998;36:1584-7.
  12. Turenne CY, Hoban DJ, Karlowsky JA, Zhanel GG, Kabani AM. *Screening of Stool samples for identification of vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus isolates should include the methyl-<sup>-</sup>D-glucopyranoside test to differentiate nonmotile Enterococcus gallinarum from E. faecium. J Clin Microbiol* 1998;36:2333-5.
  13. Devriese LA, Pot B, Kersters K, Lauwers S, Haesebrouck F. *Acidification of methyl-<sup>-</sup>D-glucopyranoside: a useful test to differentiate Enterococcus casseliflavus and Enterococcus gallinarum from Enterococcus faecium species group and from Enterococcus faecalis.*
  14. Glória MD, Carvalho S, Teixeira LM, Facklam RR. *Use of tests for acidification of methyl-<sup>-</sup>D-glucopyranoside and susceptibility to efrotomycin for differentiation of strains of Enterococcus and some related genera. J Clin Microbiol* 1998;36:1584-7.
  15. Facklam RR, Collins MD. *Identification of Enterococcus species isolated from human infection by a conventional test scheme. J Clin Microbiol* 1989;27:731-4.
  16. Dutka-Malen S, Evers S, Courvalin P. *Detection of glycopeptide resistance genotypes and identification to the species level of clinically relevant enterococci by PCR. J Clin Microbiol* 1995;33:24-7.
  17. Cartwright CP, Stock F, Fahle G, Gill VJ. *Comparison of pigment production and motility tests with PCR for reliable identification of intrinsically vancomycin-resistant enterococci. J Clin Microbiol* 1995;33:1931-3.
  18. Vincent S, Knight RG, Green M, Sham DF, Shlaes DM. *Vancomycin susceptibility and identification of motile enterococci. J Clin Microbiol* 1991;29:2335-7.
  19. Willey BM, Blacklock A, McGeer A, Low DE. *Evaluation of rapid xylose fermentation(RapXyl) for distinguishing intrinsically vancomycin-resistant(VR) Enterococcus gallinarum(Egal) from VR E. faecium(VREFE). Abstracts of the 37th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. 1997*
  20. Sham DF, Free L, Handwerger. *Inducible and constitutive expression of vanC-1-encoded resistance to vancomycin in Enterococcus gallinarum. Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1995;39:1480-4.
  21. Fantin B, Leclercq R, Arthur M, Duval J, Carbon C. *Influence of low-level resistance to vancomycin on efficacy of teicoplanin and vancomycin for treatment of experimental endocarditis due to Enterococcus faecium. Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1991;35:1570-5.
  22. Patel R, UHL JR, Kohner P, Hopkins MK, Cockerrill FR III. *Multiplex PCR detection of vanA, vanB, vanC-1, and vanC2/3 genes in enterococci. J Clin Microbiol* 1997;35:703-7.