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Successful Transition to Whole-Genome Sequencing and Bioinformatics to Identify Invasive Streptococcus spp. Drug Resistance, Alaska, USA

Appendix

Additional Materials and Methods

Initial phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing was performed by using the microbroth dilution method. Interpretive categories and breakpoints were determined by using Table 2G (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*) and Table 2H-1 (Group A and B *Streptococcus*) from the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute M100, 29th edition, performance standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (*1*). We applied the meningitis breakpoints for antimicrobial drugs by using interpretive breakpoints that differed between meningitis and nonmeningitis cases.

Isolates were retrieved from the freezer, cultured onto trypticase soy agar with 5% sheep blood, and incubated overnight at 37°C with 5% CO₂. A single colony was subcultured onto the same medium, incubated again overnight, and then subcultured into 5 mL Todd Hewitt broth with 0.5% yeast extract. Genomic DNA was extracted with a modified QIAamp DNA Mini Kit protocol (QIAGEN, https://www.qiagen.com) that included prelysis with mutanolysin and lysozyme. DNA concentrations and quality were assessed by using an Invitrogen Qubit assay and Nanodrop 8000 spectrophotometer (both Thermo Fisher Scientific, https://www.thermofisher.com). Extracts with a concentration of <10 ng/ μ L or a 260:280 ratio of <1.8 were removed from the workflow; isolates were retrieved from the freezer and extracted again by using the same method. DNA libraries were prepared by using a Nextera DNA Flex library preparation kit with 96 dual indices (Illumina, https://www.illumina.com). Libraries were quantified by using the Qubit assay as described and average peak size was determined by using an Agilent Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, https://www/agilent.com). Forty-eight libraries were pooled, and WGS was performed by using a MiSeq instrument and MiSeq v2 500 cycle reagent kit (Illumina).

Bioinformatic pipelines developed and validated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Streptococcus Laboratory were used for analysis (2-4). Those pipelines obtain multilocus sequence type, serotype/emm type, pili, and drug resistance information from Illumina paired-end whole-genome sequences (5). The main program used to detect sequence types and document the presence of genes related to both serotype classification and antimicrobial drug resistance is the read mapping typing tool SRST2. Although read mapping worked well in detecting most loci used in our typing strategy, a different approach was needed when extracting potentially polymorphic mosaic regions (e.g., folA, rplD, and S. pneumoniae penicillin-binding protein [PBP] genes). This alternative strategy used the adaptor trimming tool Cutadapt version 1.6, the VelvetOptimiser version 2.2.5 assembler, the Prodigal version 2.60 gene predictor, and BLAST version 2.2.29 (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). WGS-based antimicrobial drug phenotype predictions were achieved, for the most part, through presence/absence typing of resistance determinants or by identifying specific mutations within those determinants. For β lactam resistance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides a classification system in which a pneumococcal isolate is assigned to a PBP type according to sequence signatures in the transpeptidase domains of the 3 critical PBPs: PBP1a, PBP2b, and PBP2x. For S. pneumoniae, a random forest machine learning model trained on the amino acid at each position of the 3 transpeptidase domains was used to predict the $\log_2 MIC(6)$.

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