**Poster**

**Antibacterial activity of colloidal silver against Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria.**

Andrea Vila Domínguez, Andrea Miró Canturri, Rafael Ayerbe Algaba, Ángel Rodríguez Villodres, Manuel Enrique Jiménez Mejias, Younes Smani.

Clinical Unit of Infectious Diseases, Microbiology, and Preventive Medicine. Institute of Biomedicine of Seville. University Hospital Virgen del Rocío • Avda. Manuel Siurot, s/n • 41013 Seville, Spain.

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**ABSTRACT**

**Motivation:** Treatment of multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria represent a challenge for clinicians and public health authorities. Due to the emergence of resistance to a wide variety of antibiotics new alternative therapies are needed. Silver has been used to treat bacterial infections since antiquity due to its known antimicrobial properties [1]. The objective of this project was to study in vitro the activity of colloidal silver against Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria.

**Methods:** Gram-negative bacteria [Acinetobacter baumannii (n=44), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (n=25) and Escherichia coli (n=79)] and Gram-positive bacteria [Staphylococcus aureus (n=34), Syaphylococcus epidermidis (n=14) and Enterococcus spp. (n=15)] were used. All strains were grown in a Mueller-Hinton Broth (MHB) at 37°C for 20-24 h. Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) was determined for all strains by using microdilution assay. To monitor the antibacterial activity, time-kill curve assays were performed on MHB at colloidal silver concentrations of 0.5x, 1x and 2x MIC with starting inoculum of 1x10^6 colony-forming units (cfu)/mL. Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) production was measured at 6, 20 and 24 hours at colloidal silver concentrations of 0.25x, 0.5x and 1x MIC.

**Results:** Colloidal silver MIC range was from 4-8 mg/L for both Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria. Colloidal silver showed bactericidal activity against Gram-negative bacteria. However, it showed bacteriostatic activity against Gram-positive bacteria. For A. baumannii (Ab11 and ATCC 17978 strains), P. aeruginosa (Pa238 and Pa01 strains), and E. coli (mcr-1 positive strain) colloidal silver was bactericidal at 1x, and 2x MIC at 24h. However, at 24h, E. coli (ATCC 25922 strain) showed a regrowth at 0.5x, 1x and 2x MIC. Incubation of bacterial strains with colloidal silver led to a significant increase in ROS production at 24h in Gram-negative bacteria.

**Conclusions:** Colloidal silver showed in vitro activity against these kind of pathogens, especially against Gram-negative bacteria. These results suggest that colloidal silver could be a new alternative for treatment of infections caused by MDR pathogens.

**REFERENCES**