

Abstract:

Nine *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates, six from blood and three from cerebrospinal fluid of newborn babies at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya, were analyzed for the mechanism of cephalosporin resistance. By using pulsed-field gel electrophoresis of XbaI-digested chromosomal DNA, all the nine isolates were found to be clonal. PCR and direct sequencing revealed a novel extended-spectrum β -lactamase, which we designated CTX-M-12. It has a more potent hydrolytic activity against cefotaxime than against ceftazidime and a pI of 9.0 and is encoded on a large self-transferable ca. 160-kbp plasmid