

CHROMagar mSuperCARBA and RAPIDEC® Carba NP test for detection of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae

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A novel chromogenic medium CHROMagar mSuperCARBA was evaluated to detect carbapenem-resistant Gram-negatives. This medium is as sensitive and as specific as the SUPERCARBA medium for detecting KPC, MBL and OXA-48-type producers (100% and 100%, respectively) and is compatible with subsequent testing of carbapenemase activity using the RAPIDEC® CARBA NP.

Keywords:

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Resistance

β-Lactams

Screening medium

Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) are increasingly reported worldwide (Pitout and Laupland, 2008). Mortality rates as high as 69% due to infections caused by these bacteria have been reported (Djahmi et al., 2014). Carbapenem resistance in Enterobacteriaceae has become worrisome since the spread of KPC-type carbapenemases among *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates in the 2000's (Yigit et al., 2001). Worldwide spread of carbapenemase producers has been facilitated by the mobilization of carbapenemase genes from mobile genetic elements (conjugative plasmids, integrons or transposons) among different enterobacterial species (Nordmann and Poirel, 2014). In this context, the rapid detection of these microorganisms is critical for preventing the development of nosocomial outbreaks.

The main groups of carbapenemases identified in Enterobacteriaceae are Ambler class A (KPC-type) that are able to hydrolyze all β-lactams except cephamycins, the zinc-dependent metallo-β-lactamases (MBL) Ambler class B (NDM, VIM, and IMP) of hydrolyzing all β-lactams except aztreonam, and the Ambler class D (OXA-48-like) carbapenemases, hydrolyzing carbapenems and broad-spectrum cephalosporins only weakly (Nordmann et al., 2011, 2012a).

Chromogenic and non-chromogenic screening methods for detecting CPE bacteria have been developed. Among chromogenic media, CHROMagar KPC (CHROMagar Ltd) is effective for detecting VIM and

KPC carbapenemase producers (Kruse et al., 2013), but poorly detects OXA-48 producers (Girlich et al., 2013b; Nordmann et al., 2012b). Brilliance CRE (Oxoid, ThermoFisher Scientific) is reported to more efficiently detect KPC- and MBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae (Girlich et al., 2013b), and the chromogenic medium chromID CARBA (bioMérieux) well detects CPE, except OXA-48 producers (Girlich et al., 2013a). Detection of OXA-48-like producers can be efficient using the chromID OXA-48 medium (bioMérieux) (Girlich et al., 2013a). The chromID CARBA SMART (bioMérieux) is a selective chromogenic bi-plate medium that selects OXA-48 and non-OXA-48 carbapenemase producers.

Recently, the SUPERCARBA medium has been developed and its performances have been compared to those of the chromID CARBA and chromID OXA-48 media (Girlich et al., 2013a), and to the Brilliance CRE and CHROMagar KPC media (Girlich et al., 2013b). Those studies showed that sensitivity of detection of CPE by SUPERCARBA medium is much higher than those obtained with Brilliance CRE and CHROMagar KPC (96.5% versus 76.3% and 43%, respectively), and the specificity (60.7%) is higher than that of the Brilliance CRE medium (57.1%), although slightly lower than that of the CHROMagar KPC medium (67.8%). SUPERCARBA medium is as sensitive as the chromID OXA-48 medium for detection of OXA-48 producers, but with a lower specificity, and as sensitive as the chromID CARBA medium for detection of other classes of carbapenemase producers (90%). Overall, those results demonstrate that the SUPERCARBA medium may detect KPC, MBL and OXA-48 producers with high sensitivity. A pitfall of this medium is

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Table 1

Limits of detection of CHROMagar mSuperCARBA and SUPERCARBA media and Rapidec® Carba NP test for 117 carbapenemase- and/or ESBL/AmpC-producing enterobacterial isolates.

Strains	β-Lactamase content	MIC (mg/L)			Lowest detection limit (CFU/mL) ^b		
		IPM ^a	ETP	MEM	CHROMagar mSuperCARBA	SUPER CARBA	RAPIDEC® CARBA NP
Susceptible to carbapenems (n = 18)							
<i>E. cloacae</i> TH12	VEB-1	1	0.25	0.12	>10 ²	10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> REG	CTX-M-1	0.12	0.06	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> MAI	CTX-M-14	0.12	0.03	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i>	CTX-M-14	0.06	≤0.01	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> PAR	CTX-M-14	0.25	0.06	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> DES	CTX-M-15	0.12	0.06	≤0.01	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> UHR	CTX-M-15	0.12	0.25	0.03	>10 ²	10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> MED	CTX-M-15	0.5	0.06	0.06	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> 764	CTX-M-15	0.25	0.06	0.03	>10 ²	10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> ABD	CTX-M-15	0.12	0.12	0.03	>10 ²	10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> CAL	CTX-M-15	0.5	0.12	0.06	>10 ²	10 ²	—
<i>E. cloacae</i>	CTX-M-15	1	0.25	0.06	>10 ²	10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> LAG	CTX-M-27	0.12	≤0.01	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> THAI3	VEB-1	0.12	0.01	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> LOU	ACC-1	0.25	0.03	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> MOR-1	DHA-2	0.5	1	0.12	10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>P. mirabilis</i> BEL	ACC-1	4	0.03	0.12	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
<i>E. coli</i> MET	Chromosome-encoded extended-spectrum cephalosporinase	0.25	0.25	0.03	>10 ²	>10 ²	—
Reduced susceptibility to carbapenems (ESBL/overexpressed AmpC/porin deficiency) (n = 13)							
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> MEK ^d	CTX-M-15 + SHV-11	1.5	>32	6	10 ¹	10 ¹	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> FOS ^d	CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-11	6	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ²	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> BER ^d	TEM-1 + SHV-28	1	4	1	10 ¹	10 ²	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> ALE ^d	CTX-M-15 + SHV-1	1	>32	4	10 ¹	10 ²	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> SIM	CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-1	8	>32	6	10 ¹	10 ¹	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> SHM	CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-11	3	>32	3	10 ²	10 ¹	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> COO	CTX-M-15 + SHV-28	8	>32	4	10 ¹	10 ¹	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 648,236	SHV2a	0.25	2	0.38	10 ¹	10 ²	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> BED	CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-11	2	>32	8	10 ¹	10 ¹	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-11	2	>32	8	10 ¹	10 ¹	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-1	0.38	24	1.5	10 ²	10 ¹	—
<i>E. coli</i> MAR ^e	Overexpressed AmpC	16	>32	2	10 ¹	5 × 10 ³	—
<i>E. coli</i> SW	CTX-M-15	1	24	4	10 ¹	10 ¹	—
KPC producers (n = 17)							
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> SAG	KPC-2 ^c + OXA-9 + TEM-1	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> THO	KPC-2 + OXA-9 + TEM-1	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> TIF	KPC-2 + OXA-9 + TEM-1	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> LIE	KPC-2 + OXA-9 + TEM-1	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	5 × 10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 588	KPC-2 + OXA-9 + SHV-11 + TEM-1	24	32	16	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> A33504	KPC-2 + CTX-M-2 + SHV-11 + OXA-9 + TEM-1	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 475	KPC-2 + CTX-M-15 + SHV-11	16	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> COL	KPC-2 + CTX-M-9 + TEM-1	4	4	2	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> HPT2	KPC-2	1	1.5	0.75	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> CFVL	KPC-2 + TEM-3	4	2	1	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> SUZ	KPC-3	32	>32	32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> JUL	KPC-3	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> ELB	KPC-3	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> TER	KPC-3	32	>32	>32	10 ²	10 ²	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> CHRIS	KPC-3 + TEM-1 + SHV-11 + OXA-9	32	>32	32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> GRE	KPC-3 + TEM-1 + SHV-11 + OXA-9	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> BEN	KPC-3 + TEM-1 + SHV-11 + OXA-9	32	>32	32	10 ¹	10 ²	+
Metallo-β-lactamases (n = 33)							
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 10MA	NDM-1 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-11 + SHV-28 + OXA-1 + OXA-9	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> IND	NDM-1 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-28 + CMY-6 + OXA-1 + OXA-9	1	8	4	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> RIC	NDM-1 + TEM-1 + CMY-16 + OXA-1 + OXA-10	1	3	1	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> GUE	NDM-1 + TEM-1 + OXA-1	3	3	2	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> ALL	NDM-1 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 OXA-1 + OXA-2	4	>32	8	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> IR5	NDM-1 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1	16	>32	16	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> FEK	NDM-4 + OXA-1 + CTX-M-15	32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> I5	NDM-4 + CMY-6 + CTX-M-15	32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> 405	NDM-5 + TEM-1 + CTX-M-15	32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ²	+
<i>E. coli</i> GAL	NDM-6 + OXA-1 + CTX-M-15	32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> THA	NDM-7	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>E. coli</i> REI	NDM-7	32	>32	>32	10 ²	10 ²	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 0404020	VIM-1 + SHV-5	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 0404024	VIM-1	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 0511135	VIM-1 + SHV-12	>32	>32	>32	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 1,008,055	VIM-1 + SHV-5	4	2	2	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 1,108,007	VIM-1 + SHV-1	>32	4	4	10 ¹	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 1,108,009	VIM-1 + SHV-12	8	>32	2	10 ²	10 ¹	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 1,108,015	VIM-1 + SHV-12	2	4	1	10 ²	10 ¹	+

Table 1 (continued)

Strains	β -Lactamase content	MIC (mg/L)			Lowest detection limit (CFU/mL) ^b		
		IPM ^a	ETP	MEM	CHROMagar mSuperCARBA	SUPER CARBA	RAPIDEC® CARBA NP
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 1,108,016	VIM-1 + SHV-5	8	>32	2	10^2	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> 0404018	VIM-1 + CMY-13	3	1.5	1	10^1	5×10^1	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> 1,008,029	VIM-1 + CTX-M-3	>32	>32	>32	10^1	2×10^1	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> 1,008,073	VIM-1	4	>32	2	10^1	2×10^1	+
<i>S. marcescens</i> 1,008,091	VIM-1 + CTX-M-15	>32	>32	>32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> KOW7	VIM-4	16	16	8	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 0709127	IMP-1 + TEM-1	0.5	4	1	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 0709124	IMP-1 + TEM-15	8	3	2	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> 1,108,013	IMP-1 + TEM-1	0.5	4	1	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> 1,008,187	IMP-1	8	>32	4	10^1	10^1	+
<i>S. marcescens</i> 1,008,175	IMP-1	>32	>32	>32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> TWA	IMP-8	1	1	0.5	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> TWA	IMP-8	1.5	1	1	10^1	10^1	+
<i>S. marcescens</i> IBM19	IMP-11	2	8	4	10^2	10^1	+
Carbapenemase of the OXA-48-type (n = 36)							
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> RAM	OXA-48	1	4	1	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> LIB	OXA-48	16	16	16	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> TIK	OXA-48	0.75	2	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>Enterobacter</i> spp. TUR9	OXA-48	0.38	3	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> TUR10	OXA-48	0.38	4	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> T12	OXA-48	1.5	4	0.75	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> OM14	OXA-48 + TEM1	0.5	1	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> BOU	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15	0.38	0.5	0.25	10^2	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> EGY	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15	2	3	2	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> ROU	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15	0.5	1.5	0.25	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> BAJ	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + SHV-28 + TEM-1	0.5	1.5	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> BEN	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + SHV-28 + TEM-1	0.38	1	0.25	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> DUW	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + SHV-28 + TEM-1	32	32	32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> SIC	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + SHV28	0.25	1	0.25	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> AMS	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + OXA-1	0.5	2	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> ELK	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1 + SHV-11	0.5	3	0.38	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> VSG	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + OXA-1 + TEM-1	0.75	3	0.75	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> HPA	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15 + OXA-1 + TEM-1	1.5	>32	12	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> OM11	OXA-48 + CTX-M-14 + TEM-1	0.5	0.75	0.25	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> BOU	OXA-48 + CTX-M-15	0.5	0.75	0.12	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> BON	OXA-48 + CTX-M-24 + TEM-1	0.38	0.5	0.19	10^1	10^2	+
<i>E. cloacae</i> TUR	OXA-48 + SHV-5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> Af18	OXA-181	>32	>32	>32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> Af54	OXA 181	>32	>32	32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> Af56	OXA-181	>32	>32	>32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> Af39	OXA-181	1	>32	12	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> Af53	OXA-181	3	>32	4	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> DEL	OXA-181 + SHV11 + CTX-M-15 + TEM-1	>32	>32	>32	10^1	10^1	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> HOL	OXA-181 + CTX-M-15	8	>32	32	10^1	10^1	—
<i>E. coli</i> LIEU	OXA-181 + CTX-M-15	1	1	0.25	10^2	10^2	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 479	OXA-204 + CMY-4	8	16	8	10^1	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> GRA	OXA-204 + CMY-2 + CTX-M-15 + OXA-1	2	1	0.25	10^2	10^1	+
<i>E. coli</i> DUP	OXA-204 + CMY-4 + CTX-M-15 + OXA-1	2	1	0.25	10^1	10^2	+
<i>E. coli</i> BAR	OXA-204 + CMY-4 + CTX-M-15	2	2	0.5	10^2	10^2	+
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> DEL	OXA-232 + SHV-1 + TEM-1 + CTX-M-15 + OXA-1	8	>32	32	10^2	10^2	—
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> RAN	OXA-232 + SHV-1 + TEM-1 + CTX-M-15 + OXA-1 + NDM-1	>32	>32	>32	10^1	10^1	+

^a IPM = Imipenem; ETP = ertapenem; MEM = meropenem.^b Underlined colony-forming unit counts are considered as negative results (cut-off values set at $\geq 1 \times 10^3$ CFU/plate).c Boldened β -lactamase names correspond to carbapenemase.

d Reduced susceptibility to ertapenem due to porin deficiency.

e Reduced susceptibility to ertapenem due to overexpressed AmpC coupled or not to porin deficiency.

that it does not include chromogenic molecules indentifying enterobacterial species.

Therefore, the chromogenic screening medium CHROMagar mSuperCARBA (CHROMagar company) was developed for the detection and presumed identification of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae. The aim of this study was to compare the performance of the CHROMagar mSuperCARBA medium with the SUPERCARBA medium and to analyze the performances of the subsequent use of the RAPIDEC® Carba NP test for detection of carbapenemase activity.

A total of 117 clinical strains of Enterobacteriaceae were used. They had been previously characterized at the molecular level for their β -lactamase content. These strains were isolated from various clinical

samples (blood cultures, urine, etc...) and represented the most frequent enterobacterial species producing carbapenemases worldwide. This collection included 18 susceptible-carbapenem isolates, 13 strains with reduced susceptibility to carbapenems but non-carbapenemase producers (ESBL, overexpressed AmpC and/or porin deficiency), and a series of 86 carbapenemase producers including 36 OXA-48-type producers, 17 KPC producers, 12 NDM producers, 13 VIM producers, and 8 IMP producers. Minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of imipenem, ertapenem and meropenem were determined by Etest and MIC values were interpreted according to the 2014 Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute (CLSI) guidelines ([Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 2014](#)).

The SUPERCARBA plates were prepared as described previously (Nordmann et al., 2012b) and the new CHROMagar mSuperCARBA plates were prepared following the manufacturer's instructions. The inoculum of 0.5 McFarland corresponds to approximately 10^8 CFU/mL, and 100 µL of serial 10-fold dilutions were plated on the selective media SUPERCARBA NP and CHROMagar mSuperCARBA. Viable bacteria were counted from growth on Lisogenic Broth (LB) (Sigma) plates after 24 hours. Sensitivity and specificity were calculated for every medium and a limit value of 1×10^3 CFU/plate was considered as negative result, as previously described (Girlich et al., 2013a, b).

CHROMagar mSuperCARBA medium showed 100% sensitivity and 100% specificity for KPC, NDM, VIM, IMP and more interestingly OXA-48-type producers were better selected compared to SUPERCARBA medium (Table 1). This is noteworthy considering that the SUPERCARBA medium has the highest sensitivity for detection of OXA-48 producers either with low or high inoculums (93–100%, respectively) (Girlich et al., 2013a, b). Moreover, 100% of sensitivity and specificity was encountered for bacteria with reduced susceptibility. Noticeably, 2 additional isolates with reduced susceptibility to carbapenems were selected by the CHROMagar mSuperCARBA medium as compared to the SUPERCARBA medium. The limit of detection of those strains on the SUPERCARBA medium was indeed higher than the 10^3 CFU/plate cut-off value with SUPERCARBA medium, but this problem was not observed with the novel CHROMagar mSuperCARBA medium. On the other hand, chromogenic reactions of this novel medium produced the expected species identification (data not shown).

In addition, we evaluated the incompatibility of using first bacteria grown on CHROMagar mSuperCARBA medium and then the RAPIDEC® CARBA NP test. A total of 99 strains grown on this chromogenic medium (10 µL loop of bacterial colonies) were analyzed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Clear positive results for KPC, NDM, VIM and IMP producers were observed, while there was some variable degree of color change among the OXA-48-like producers (Table 1). Two OXA-48-like (OXA-181 and OXA-232) producers that were negative for RAPIDEC® CARBA NP test were negative even when bacteria were grown in LB plates showing that there was no chromogenic interference.

In conclusion, our results indicate that using first the novel chromogenic CHROMagar mSuperCARBA medium to select for carbapenem-resistant isolates and then the RAPIDEC® CARBA NP test offers a valuable option for screening carbapenemase producers.

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Conflicts of interest

An international patent form for the SUPERCARBA medium (that included the further development such of the mSupercarba medium) has been filled on behalf of INSERM Transfert (Paris, France).

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