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MI-P06

BIOFILM FORMING PATHOGENIC *Klebsiella pneumoniae* AND *Escherichia coli* STRAINS: SIDEROPHORE PROFILE

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We have reported that the antagonism between uropathogenic strains of *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* in mixed biofilms in artificial urine medium (AUM) is due to nutrient competition with a greater ability of *K. pneumoniae* to utilize ferric iron. We aim to investigate the siderophore production profile of both strains and its role in inter-species competition. Genotypic characterization was performed by PCR using specific primers for siderophore genes related to its biosynthesis and its receptor. Bacteria were grown planktonically in modified M9 (MM9) for 2 d at 37°C and as biofilms in AUM for 5 d at 37°C. Culture supernatants were evaluated for both siderophore production by chrome azurol S (CAS) assay and chemical determination of catechol- and hydroxamate-containing molecules. Results showed that both strains contain enterobactin (catechol) related genes, but only *E. coli* also has salmochelin (catechol), aerobactin (hidroxamate), and yersiniabactin (mixed) related genes. CAS assays evidenced the production of siderophores by both species when growing in MM9. *E. coli* produce both catechol- and hydroxamate-containing compounds (89±33 and 111±50 pmol/10⁶ cells), whereas *K. pneumoniae* only displayed catechols (47±17 pmol/10⁶ cells). Biofilms showed similar levels of catechols in all single-species *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* biofilms and mixed biofilms. Single-species *E. coli* biofilm express higher amounts of hydroxamates, compared to mixed biofilms. Even when *E. coli* produce a higher amount and variety of siderophores than *K. pneumoniae*, in mixed biofilms, a differential siderophore utilization might take place, allowing *K. pneumoniae* to outcompete *E. coli*.

MI-P07

TRANSCRIPTOMIC ANALYSIS IN BLV-EXPERIMENTALLY INFECTED CATTLE LEADING TO HIGH OR LOW PROVIRAL LOAD

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Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV) is a highly prevalent pathogen causing a fatal lymphoproliferative disease in the bovine species. After experimental infection, proviral load peaks at 30 days post infection (dpi), then, cattle progress to two different phenotypes: one is characterized by high proviral load (HPL) in peripheral blood, while the other is identified by low proviral load (LPL) in peripheral blood. In LPL cattle a sharp decrease in proviral load is evidenced at 38 dpi. We studied the transcriptome in peripheral blood cells from 10 cattle (5 of each phenotype) infected with BLV at 38 dpi, to identify the host genes differentially expressed in those animals that progress to LPL, recognized as BLV-resistant. RNA seq experiments showed 499 genes differentially expressed (p<0.05) between both phenotypes: 281 upregulated and 218 downregulated in LPL compared to HPL cattle. Gene ontology analysis revealed that genes related to inflammatory response, humoral immune response and leukocyte migration were up regulated in cattle progressing to LPL compared to HPL (p<0.05), while the regulation of homeostatic process, antigen receptor signaling pathway and phospholipid transport were downregulated in LPL compared to HPL cattle (p<0.05). The huge difference in transcript expression found at 38 dpi, suggests that mechanisms used to control the proviral load are turned on early after the infection, although the phenotype of LPL or HPL is established only after 90 dpi.

MI-P08

DEPLETION OF TbRRM1 INDUCES RNA POL II TRANSCRIPTION-ELONGATION IMPAIRMENT AND R-LOOPS ACCUMULATION

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TbRRM1 is an essential SR-related RNA binding protein from *Trypanosoma brucei*, the causative agent of sleeping sickness. Previous studies from our lab indicate that TbRRM1 depletion leads to both decreased RNA Pol II transcription-elongation rate and compacted chromatin in a particular polycistronic transcription unit. In the present work we showed, by chromatin and RNA immunoprecipitation assays, that TbRRM1 is both recruited to chromatin and to specific RNAs. Given this association, we further characterized TbRRM1 binding properties in the presence of RNase A, RNase H and Actinomycin D. Interestingly, TbRRM1 recruitment to chromatin increased under these treatments, thus suggesting that RNA and chromatin compete for TbRRM1 binding. In addition, we showed by RTqPCR and chromatin fractionation, that the abundance of transcripts belonging to genes downregulated after TbRRM1 depletion increases in the chromatin-associated RNA fraction. Finally, as the RNase H results suggested that TbRRM1 binds DNA-RNA hybrid, we studied whether *TbRRM1* knockdown induces the formation of R-loops. To this end, we performed indirect immunofluorescence assays with the S9.6 antibody. TbRRM1 depleted cells showed a significant increase in the number of positive intranuclear dots, thus suggesting that TbRRM1 prevents R-loops accumulation. Altogether, our results suggest that RNA Pol II transcription-elongation impairment, induced by TbRRM1 depletion, might be a consequence of RNA Pol II slowing down due to R-loops accumulation. Our hypothesis is that TbRRM1 helps to displace the nascent mRNAs from the site of transcription, which prevents the formation of R-loops.