

Escherichia coli Invasive Infections in Neonates

Background

- *Escherichia coli* causes neonatal bacteremia and meningitis.
- Bacterial passage across the newborn's intestinal epithelium is an important step that precedes bacteremia, with the bacterial virulence factors relevant in this process are poorly understood.
- This project aims to identify *E. coli* genes relevant in the initial invasion step of the bacterium into intestinal epithelial cells.

Highlights of Results

- It was demonstrated that neonatal clinical *E. coli* isolates show differences in their intestinal invasion ability, and that highly invasive isolates are genetically different from those with low invasion properties.
- Resistance to antibiotics currently used empirically to treat newborns is present in bacteremia-producing *E. coli*.
- Clonal spread among newborns of multidrug-resistant *E. coli* is possible; therefore, continued surveillance is needed.
- Identification of additional virulence factors associated with increased invasion in neonatal *E. coli* strains is important and further studies are warranted.



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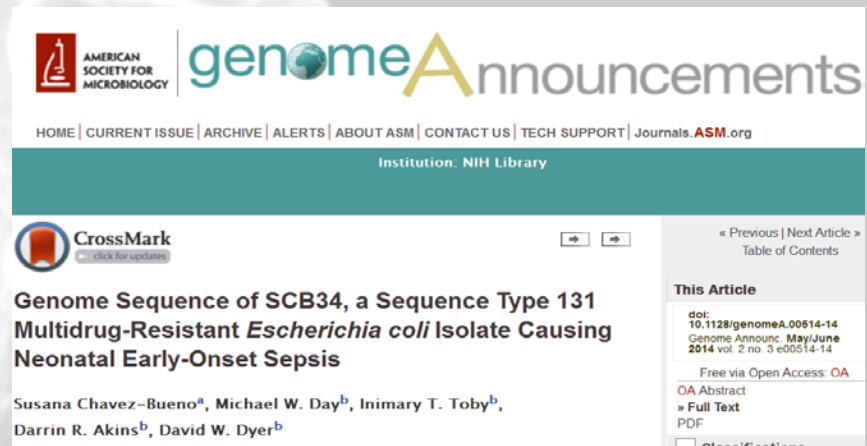
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Genotypic and Phenotypic Characterization of Invasive Neonatal *Escherichia coli* Clinical Isolates

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Classifications

Genome Sequence of SCB34, a Sequence Type 131 Multidrug-Resistant *Escherichia coli* Isolate Causing Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis

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