

Peer Review

Review of: "Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of Foodborne Bacterial Isolates from HIV/AIDS Patients in Lusaka, Zambia"

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This study addresses a relevant topic by analyzing the AMR patterns of bacterial isolates recovered from the feces of 54 HIV/AIDS patients in Lusaka, Zambia. The manuscript is well-written, and the results contribute to expanding our knowledge of the AMR profile of foodborne pathogens. However, some major points must be addressed to make it publishable, as explained below.

1. Incomplete description of methods: 1.1) Although the manuscript reports data on 15 bacterial genera/species, the methods used to isolate and confirm their identity are not described; 1.2) Terms such as “robustly reviewed and cleaned up” of data must be fully explained so that the analysis procedures can be reproduced. Moreover, the statistical model of multinomial logistic regression (i.e., equation, model coefficients, etc.) should also be reported; 1.3) It is not clear how AST was conducted. The authors collected *E. coli* isolates, but not all members of this species are pathogenic. How did the authors ensure they were dealing with pathogenic strains? Assuming these were pathogenic organisms just because they were isolated from patients complaining of gastrointestinal symptoms is not reliable. These symptoms may have been caused by other multiple factors, especially in HIV/AIDS patients.
2. Antibiotic treatment is not recommended for self-limiting gastroenteritis, which was apparently the case for the 54 patients. Its use is justified in systemic infections, which, in fact, are more common in immunocompromised individuals. But this was not consistent with the study setting described in the manuscript, making the conclusions unreliable.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.