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Evaluation of the in vitro synergistic activity of chlorhexidine and trizEDTA
H. BURSON, J. HARRIS, S. ARGYLE and T. J. NUTTALL
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This study assessed the in vitro synergistic activity of chlorhexidine and trizEDTA against meticillin-susceptible S. pseudintermedius (MSSP), meticillin-resistant S. pseudintermedius (MRSP), Escherichia coli (EC), extended spectrum beta-lactamase E. coli (ESBL-EC) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa (PA). Ten isolates of each organism were incubated for 10 min with doubling dilutions of chlorhexidine (10–0.02 μg/mL) and trizEDTA (from 35.6/9.4 to 0.28/0.07 mg/mL; PA 71.2/18.8 to 0.56/0.14 mg/mL) in 96-well plates in a chequerboard design. The isolates were then incubated in tryptone soy broth overnight. For each plate the fractional inhibition concentrations (FIC) were calculated for each well along the growth/no growth interface: FIC = (MIC chlorhexidine/MIC chlorhexidine in combination) + (MIC trizEDTA alone/MIC trizEDTA in combination); and FIC index (FICI) for each isolate = mean of the FICs. These values were used to calculate the mean FICI for each organism. The results were evaluated using the convention: FICI <1.0 = synergy; 1.0–4.0 = additive; and >4.0 = antagonism. The highest concentration of the trizEDTA reduced the MIC of the chlorhexidine by 3–6 dilutions, but with lower concentrations the MICs and MBCs reverted to those seen with chlorhexidine alone for most isolates. The mean (SD) FICI were: MSSP 1.2 (0.1), MRSP 1.2 (0.1), EC 1.0 (0.2), ESBL-EC 1.1 (0.4) and PA 0.9 (0.2). Chlorhexidine and trizEDTA show additive behaviour against MSSP, MRSP, EC and ESBL-EC, with weak synergy against PA. TrizEDTA therefore appears to potentiate the activity of chlorhexidine against these organisms, but only at high concentrations and true synergy is unlikely.

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