The Effects of Cefotax and Imipenem on mRNA Transcription in ATP Synthase Related Genes

Dr. Patricia Canaan, Erin Hester, Matthew Cartwright, Dominique Young, Elizabeth Chavarria, Nathanial Torres, William Johnson

ABSTRACT
We researched the bacterium Elizabethkingia anophelis, focusing specifically on a group of genes pertaining to ATP synthase. We used the RAST database to find the genes, and determine the gene sequences. We then used the chart provided to determine if two drugs (Imipenem and Cefotax) had an impact on mRNA transcription. According to the chart, cefotax increased mRNA translation in two of the six genes, and imipenem reduced mRNA translation in four of the six genes. This indicates that imipenem would be a better treatment option for Elizabethkingia anophelis than cefotax.

INTRODUCTION
Elizabethkingia anophelis is a gram-negative, rod-shaped bacterium which was originally isolated in the gut of the malaria vector mosquitoes, Anopheles gambiae (5). Although there are three different subcategories of this bacterium our main focus was the E. Anopheles genome due to its resistance to antibiotics(4). It is commonly found in the environment and has been detected in soil and certain water sources such as river water and reservoirs(6). In order to treat this strain of bacterium, combination antibiotics therapies are recommended (3). These medicines affect the way that the disease/bacteria work. Under these conditions the six genes researched and genomic sequences we gathered all came from the RAST database (1,2,7). Based off of the gene identifications and placement on the gene itself, we could tell these few genes were consecutively next to each other and were working hand in hand with each other. Next, we went back to the RAST database and pulled up DNA sequences for the six genes. Looking at the sequences, the length of each gene could be determined. Afterwards, we searched through a spreadsheet that contained the RNA sequence data that was provided on D2L. We recorded the level and number of transcripts grown under control conditions, Cefotax, Imipenem, and the total transcription patterns observed across all of the three conditions from the spreadsheet.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
The experiment began with identifying a group of interesting genes within the Elizabethkingia anophelis R26 genome. The genes researched and genomic sequences we gathered all came from the RAST database (1,2,7). Based off of the gene identifications and placement on the gene itself, we could tell these few genes were consecutively next to each other and were working hand in hand with each other. Next, we went back to the RAST database and pulled up DNA sequences for the six genes. Looking at the sequences, the length of each gene could be determined. Afterwards, we searched through a spreadsheet that contained the RNA sequence data that was provided on D2L. We recorded the level and number of transcripts grown under control conditions, Cefotax, Imipenem, and the total transcription patterns observed across all of the three conditions from the spreadsheet.

RESULTS
Using the chart below, we determined that all of our chosen genes were active and necessary for Elizabethkingia anophelis to properly function; all six of our genes experienced mRNA transcription when no drug was present. The fold change between cefotax and the control group was only significant in genes 154 and 159. Both of these changes were positive, indicating that while grown in the presence of cefotax transcription of mRNA for these genes increased. The fold change between imipenem and the control group had significant changes in genes 154, 156, 158, and 159. All of these changes were negative, indicating a lower number of mRNA transcription in the drug-treated group than in the control group.

In this chart, the rows highlighted in yellow are the genes that pertain to our research; the values highlighted in green and orange show how the two drugs impact transcription. Fold change values equal to or above 1.5 or equal to or below -1.5 are considered to be significant.

DISCUSSION
We chose these specific genes because ATP Synthese is vital for a cell to function (8), and is therefore important to study when researching the effects of drugs on different genes. When imipenem was introduced, the genes underwent less translation, potentially because of drug resistance. When the cefotax was introduced, mRNA transcription increased in our chosen genes; this shows that cefotax is most likely not effective in treating Elizabethkingia anophelis. More research should be done regarding both these drugs and other possible treatments in order to find an effective way to treat Elizabethkingia anophelis; based on our results, imipenem could possibly be used to treat or reduce the effects of E. anophelis, but again, more research is needed.

REFERENCES
6. Elizabethkingia. 2016. CDC.