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**Keywords:** Escherichia coli, child care center, antimicrobial resistance, transfer

ACCEPTED

1 **Transfer of Antimicrobial-Resistant *Escherichia coli* and Resistance Genes in a Child**  
2 **Care Center**

3

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16

17 Running title: Resistance transfer in a child care center

18

19 **Abstract**

20 Several reports describe antimicrobial-resistance transfer among children and the community  
21 in outbreak situations, but transfer between a child and a care giver has not been examined in  
22 child care facilities under normal circumstances. We investigated the transfer of  
23 antimicrobial-resistance genes, resistant bacteria, or both among healthy children and  
24 teachers. From 2007 to 2009, 104 *Escherichia coli* isolates were obtained from four teachers  
25 and 38 children in a child care center. Twenty-six cephem-resistant isolates were obtained  
26 from children in 2007 and 2008. In 2009, cephem-resistant isolates were detected in children  
27 as well as a teacher. Nalidixic acid-resistant isolates from the same teacher for 3 years  
28 showed low similarity (<50%) to each other. However, an isolate from a teacher in 2007 and  
29 another from a child in 2008 showed high similarity (87%). Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis  
30 revealed 100% similarity for four isolates in 2007 and one isolate in 2008, and also similarity  
31 among seven isolates carrying the virulence gene (CNF1). This study yielded the following  
32 findings: (1) a gene for extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamase was transferred from a child to other  
33 children and a teacher; (2) a nalidixic acid-resistant isolate was transferred from a teacher to  
34 a child; and (3) a virulent bacterium was transferred between children.

35

36 **Keywords:** *Escherichia coli*, child care center, antimicrobial resistance, transfer

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38

## 39 **Introduction**

40 More than 80% of urinary tract infections in children are caused by *Escherichia coli* [1], and  
41 approximately 8% of children from 1 month to 11 years old experience infections from *E.*  
42 *coli* [2]. As the number of antimicrobial agents to treat *E. coli* urinary tract infection has  
43 increased, the occurrence of resistant bacteria has also increased [3]. Antimicrobial-resistant  
44 bacteria can cause a serious health risk, especially in children [4]. Children at a child care  
45 facility may play a role as a reservoir of resistant bacteria, and they can transfer resistant  
46 bacteria to family and community members, resulting in spread of resistance [4-6]. Some  
47 reports have described higher detection rates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*  
48 (MRSA) and trimethoprim-resistant *E. coli* in children attending child care facilities than in  
49 those who do not attend a child care facility [7-9]. Adcock *et al.* highlighted that resistant  
50 strains are spread to families and communities through person-to-person contacts [5].  
51 However, no study has investigated the transfer of antibiotic-resistance genes or antibiotic-  
52 resistant bacteria between healthy children and teachers in a child care facility.

53       Transfer of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and resistance genes may be a great risk  
54 not only to children and teachers, but also to the local community. Therefore, this study  
55 aimed to investigate the actual transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic-  
56 resistant genes in a child care facility.

57

## 58 **Materials and Methods**

### 59 *Isolation and identification of E. coli*

60 Fecal samples were obtained from four teachers and 38 children (6 to 36 months old) in a  
61 child care center in Gwangmyeong-si, Korea, with sterile cotton swabs and transported to the  
62 laboratory in a transport medium. *E. coli* was isolated following the guidelines of Association  
63 of Official Analytical Chemists [10]. Samples were inoculated on MacConkey agar plate (BD,

64 Sparks, MD) by streaking. After incubation for 18–24 h at 35°C, well-isolated pink colonies  
65 were obtained and re-inoculated to obtain pure colonies. Each isolate was identified with API  
66 20E (bioMérieux, Marcy l'Étoile, France). Isolates were deposited in the Culture Collection  
67 of Antimicrobial Resistant Microbes (CCARM, Seoul, Korea).

68

#### 69 *Assay of minimal inhibitory concentration*

70 Minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs) were assayed with the agar dilution method  
71 following the guidelines of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) [11].  
72 Tested antimicrobial agents were ampicillin, cephalothin, ceftazidime, cefazolin, cefotaxime,  
73 ceftazidime, chloramphenicol, ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, nalidixic acid, norfloxacin,  
74 streptomycin, and tetracycline. In case of nalidixic acid-resistant *E. coli*, response to  
75 gatifloxacin, gemifloxacin, levofloxacin, and ofloxacin was also tested. Antimicrobial agents  
76 were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO) *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922 was used as a  
77 control.

78

#### 79 *Double disk synergy test*

80 The double-disk synergy test (DDST) was performed with strains resistant to at least one  
81 cephalosporin according to the CLSI guideline [11]. Muller-Hinton agar (BD) plates and  
82 disks containing 30 µg of ceftazidime or cefotaxime, with and without 10 µg of clavulanic  
83 acid, were used for the test. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* ATCC 700603 was used as a control.

84

#### 85 *Detection of ESBL genes by PCR and sequencing*

86 PCR with specific primers and sequencing were used to characterize the type of β-lactamase.  
87 PCR primers and conditions have been described previously [12, 13]. PCR was performed in  
88 a total volume of 25 µL, containing 2 µL of template DNA, 10 pmol of specific primers, 1.5

89 U of *Taq* polymerase, and 200  $\mu$ M each of dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP (Biobasic, Ontario,  
90 Canada) in a reaction buffer consisting of 100 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM KCl, and 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>.  
91 PCR was performed using GeneAmp PCR system 9700 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City,  
92 CA). After electrophoresis of PCR products on a 1% agarose gel and visualization with  
93 ethidium bromide, the products were purified using the QIAquick gel extraction kit (Qiagen,  
94 Valencia, CA). DNA sequencing was performed with an ABI 3730XL Sequencer (Applied  
95 Biosystems) by Bionics (Seoul, Korea).

96

#### 97 *Detection of quinolone-resistance mutations*

98 Mutations in quinolone resistance determining regions (QRDRs) of DNA, including gyrase  
99 (*gyrA* and *gyrB*) and topoisomerase IV (*parC* and *parE*), were detected by sequencing the  
100 genes after PCR with specific primers [14, 15]. PCR amplification of *qnr* and *aac(6')-Ib-cr*  
101 was performed as described previously [16-18]. PCR was performed in a total volume of 25  
102  $\mu$ L, containing 2  $\mu$ L of template DNA, 10 pmol of specific primer, 1.5 U of *Taq* polymerase,  
103 and 200  $\mu$ M each of dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP (Biobasic, Ontario, Canada) in a reaction  
104 buffer consisting of 100 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM KCl, and 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>. PCR was performed  
105 using GeneAmp PCR system 9700 (Applied Biosystems). PCR products were treated and  
106 sequenced as described for ESBL genes.

107

#### 108 *Detection of virulence genes by PCR*

109 Multiplex PCR for virulence genes in *E. coli* was performed with primers specific to 11  
110 virulence genes (VE1)-heat-labile (LTI) and heat-stable (STI, STII) toxin; verotoxin types 1,  
111 2, and 2e (VT1, VT2, and VT2e); cytotoxic necrotizing factor (CNF)1 and CNF2; attaching  
112 and effacing mechanisms (*eaeA*); enteroaggregative mechanisms (Eagg); and enteroinvasive  
113 mechanisms (Einv) as previously described [19]. PCR was performed in a total volume of 25

114  $\mu\text{L}$ , containing 2  $\mu\text{L}$  of template DNA, 10 pmol of specific primer for virulence genes (Table  
115 1), 1.5 U of *Taq* polymerase, and 200  $\mu\text{M}$  each of dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP (Biobasic,  
116 Ontario, Canada) in a reaction buffer consisting of 100 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM KCl, and 1  
117 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . PCR was performed using GeneAmp PCR system 9700 (Applied Biosystems),  
118 and PCR products were visualized with ethidium bromide after electrophoresis on a 1%  
119 agarose gel.

120

### 121 *Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis*

122 Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) was performed as described in a PulseNet with some  
123 modifications [20]. Briefly, bacterial cells were grown overnight on Luria Bertani (LB, BD)  
124 agar plates at 37°C. Colonies were suspended in a suspension buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, 100  
125 mM EDTA, pH 8.0), and cell density was adjusted to 1.3–1.4 at 610 nm. The cell suspension  
126 (100  $\mu\text{L}$ ) was mixed with 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of proteinase K (20 mg/mL) and an equal volume of melted 1%  
127 InCert agarose. The mixture was carefully dispensed into a sample mold (Bio-Rad, Hercules,  
128 CA). After solidification, plugs were transferred into 2-mL microcentrifuge tubes containing  
129 1.5 mL of cell lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 50 mM EDTA, 1% sarcosyl, pH 8.0) and 0.5  
130 mg/mL of proteinase K. Cells were lysed for 1.5 h in a water bath with continuous agitation.  
131 After lysis, plugs were washed twice with sterile distilled water and four times with TE buffer  
132 (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0) for 15 min per wash at 54°C with gentle shaking.  
133 Agarose-embedded DNA was equilibrated in a restriction enzyme buffer for 2 h at 37°C. For  
134 complete digestion of DNA, 50 U of *Xba*I (5'-TCTAGA-3'; Takara, Shiga, Japan) was used.  
135 Restricted fragments were separated on a 1.0% SeaKem gold agarose gel using CHEF-DR III  
136 (Bio-Rad) in 0.5 $\times$  TBE buffer (44.5 mM Tris, 44.5 mM boric acid, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0).  
137 Electrophoresis was performed at 6 V/cm for 20 h with pulse time increasing from 2.2 to 54.2  
138 s. A lambda DNA ladder, composed of 48.5 kb concatemers (BioLabs, Ipswich, MA), was

139 used as the size standard. Digital images were stored electronically as TIF files and analyzed  
140 with GelCompar software (Applied Maths, Austin, TX).

141

## 142 **Results**

### 143 *Isolation and identification of E. coli*

144 Total 104 *E. coli* isolates (14 isolates from four teachers and 90 isolates from 38 children)  
145 were obtained from June 2007 to March 2009. Colonies that were produced from the same  
146 sample but differed in size or antimicrobial resistance profile were treated as independent  
147 isolates.

148

### 149 *Minimal inhibitory concentration*

150 Antimicrobial resistance patterns of isolates from children and teachers differed from one  
151 another. Isolates from children showed higher resistance rates than those from teachers for  
152 ampicillin, cephalothin, cephazolin, ceftazidim, cefotaxim, and streptomycin (Table 2). On the  
153 contrary, resistance rates to gentamicin, tetracycline, ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, and nalidixic  
154 acid were higher in isolates from teachers than those from children (Table 2). MIC<sub>90s</sub>  
155 (minimum inhibitory concentration required to inhibit the growth of 90% of organisms)  
156 showed a pattern similar to the resistance rates. MIC<sub>90s</sub> for cephalothin, cephazolin, ceftazidim,  
157 cefotaxim, ceftazidim, and streptomycin in isolates from children were much higher than  
158 those of isolates from teachers. MIC<sub>90s</sub> for gentamicin, norfloxacin, and nalidixic acid were  
159 higher in isolates from teachers than in those from children (Table 3).

160 Two nalidixic acid-resistant *E. coli* isolates were detected in teachers only in 2007. In  
161 2008 and 2009, nalidixic acid-resistant *E. coli* isolates were detected in six children.

162 Cephalothin- and cephazolin-resistant *E. coli* were detected in children in 2007 and 2008 but  
163 not in 2009 while they were detected in teachers in 2009 (Table 2). Nalidixic acid-resistant



164 isolates, CCARM 1F561 from a teacher and CCARM 1F601 and 1F620 from two children  
165 showed the same MICs to additional four quinolones- gatifloxacin, gemifloxacin,  
166 levofloxacin, and ofloxacin. However, CCARM 1F561 was susceptible to aminoglycosides  
167 and tetracycline, but CCARM 1F601 and 1F620 were resistant to aminoglycosides and  
168 tetracycline.

169

#### 170 *Detection of ESBL genes*

171 Eight isolates were identified as ESBL-producing strains by DDST, and all had TEM-type  
172 ESBL genes. These isolates included one isolate from a child in 2008 and seven isolates from  
173 a teacher and children in 2009.

174

#### 175 *Quinolone-resistance mechanisms and genotypic similarity of nalidixic acid-resistant E. coli*

176 *E. coli* ten isolates were resistant to nalidixic acid during the 3-year study period. In 2007,  
177 two isolates (CCARM 1F561 and 1F572) from teachers were resistant to nalidixic acid. In  
178 2008 and 2009, nalidixic acid-resistant isolates were found in the same teacher as well as in  
179 children. These isolates had mutations previously reported in *gyrA*, *parC*, and *parE* [14, 15,  
180 21-23], but not in *gyrB*. In the case of CCARM 1F572, a new mutation was found at *gyrA*  
181 (Pro126 to Leu). CCARM 1F601 and 1F620 had the same MICs and the same mutations in  
182 *gyrA* and *parC* (Table 4). CCARM 1F561 from a teacher and CCARM 1F601 from a child  
183 had the same four mutations (two in *gyrA* and two in *parC*), while CCARM 1F561 from a  
184 teacher and 1F620 from a child had the same five mutations (two in *gyrA*, two in *parC*, and  
185 one in *parE*). CCARM 1F615 and 1G123 from two children had the same mutations (one in  
186 *gyrA* and two in *parE*; Table 4). The *qnr* and *aac(6')-Ib-cr* gene were not detected in nalidixic  
187 acid-resistant isolates.

188

189 *Detection of virulence genes in E. coli*

190 Virulence genes were detected in seven isolates from children, and these were all CNF1.

191 These isolates included six isolates in 2007 and one in 2008.

192

193 *Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis*

194 High similarity was revealed by PFGE among ESBL-producing isolates, which were all from

195 children (Fig. 1A). CCARM 1G112 showed close similarity (100%) to CCARM 1G125,

196 while CCARM 1G124 showed close similarity (96.3%) to CCARM 1G126. Nalidixic acid–

197 resistant isolates showed close similarity to each other in PFGE (Fig. 1B). CCARM 1F561

198 from a teacher showed high similarity with CCARM 1F602 (87.5%) and CCARM 1F620

199 (85.8%) from children. CCARM 1F615 and CCARM 1G123 from children showed very high

200 similarity (92.3%) to each other. In addition, five CNF-producing isolates from children

201 showed 100% similarity to each other (Fig. 1C).

202

## 203 **Discussion**

204 Children spend considerable time in day care facilities, where they can be easily exposed to

205 various bacteria, and can be reservoirs for antimicrobial-resistant bacteria amplifying the

206 spread of these bacteria in the community [4-6]. If children carry resistant bacteria, treating

207 infection with antimicrobial agents would be difficult.

208 In Japan, many children in day care facilities frequently experience acute respiratory

209 infection and otitis media. The percentage of children in day care facilities who carry the four

210 major pathogens (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Hemophilus influenzae*, *Mycobacterium*

211 *catarrhalis*, and *S. aureus*) is higher than among children who do not attend day care facilities

212 [6]. Adcock (1998) [5] and Carvalho (2017) [9] also reported the possibility of transmission

213 of MRSA to other children in the same facility as well as to their parents. Many studies have

214 reported the transfer of infectious disease among children or children and teachers. However,  
215 no report has provided direct evidence of transfer of antimicrobial-resistance genes or  
216 antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, yet.

217 Results of this study showed different antimicrobial resistance patterns of isolates  
218 from children and teachers. For example, isolates from children were more resistant to  
219 cephem, while isolates from teachers were more resistant to quinolones. This pattern may be  
220 due to the different kinds of antimicrobials prescribed for children and adults. Higher  
221 resistance rates were observed in isolates from children for antimicrobial agents (cephem)  
222 that are generally prescribed to children. Resistance to nalidixic acid, which is no longer  
223 prescribed in the clinical environment, was not observed in children. These results support  
224 the previous hypothesis that greater use of antimicrobial agents causes more resistance [24,  
225 25].

226 Quinolone resistance is mediated by mutation of QRDR region [14, 18, 26], *qnr* gene  
227 for plasmid-borne quinolone resistance [17, 26], modification of *aac(6')-Ib-cr* gene [16, 26],  
228 and regulation of gene expression of efflux pumps [14, 26]. In this study, we detected QRDR  
229 mutation and genes for resistance mechanisms except efflux mechanism.

230 Nalidixic acid-resistant isolates were first observed in a teacher in 2007, and then in  
231 the same teacher and in children in 2008 and 2009. The isolate from a teacher in 2007  
232 (CCARM 1F561) and the isolate from a child in 2008 (CCARM 1F620) had close similarity  
233 (87%) based on PFGE as well as the same point mutations in *gyrA*, *parC*, and *parE*.  
234 Moreover, these two isolates had the same MICs to 11 antimicrobials, with the exception of  
235 aminoglycosides. CCARM 1F620 had much higher MICs to aminoglycosides than CCARM  
236 1F561. These results suggest that CCARM 1F561 was transferred to a child and then  
237 acquired resistance to aminoglycosides. Aminoglycosides are widely prescribed to children  
238 for urinary tract infection, septicemia, and skin and bone soft tissue infection (including

239 ambustion) [27, 28] and serve as first-line treatments for unidentified infection. Although  
240 they carry risks for nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity, aminoglycosides are widely prescribed  
241 because of their useful antimicrobial activity and low cost. These factors make  
242 aminoglycosides as the first choice of antimicrobials for ear infection and bronchitis [29].

243 Close similarities were observed among ESBL-producing isolates from children and  
244 teachers in different years. ESBL-producing isolates were detected only in children in 2008  
245 but in both children and teachers in 2009. Among these, two isolates in 2009 (CCARM  
246 1G112 and 1G125) showed 100% similarity by PFGE and the other two isolates in 2009  
247 (1G124 and 1G126) showed 97% similarity. Except these four isolates, the other isolates  
248 showed no similarity. Since all eight ESBL-producing isolates had the same type ESBL-TEM,  
249 the gene, not the bacteria, must have been transferred among children and teachers. Results  
250 suggested that nalidixic acid-resistant *E. coli* was transferred from teachers to children, while  
251 cephalothin and cefazoline-resistant *E. coli* was transferred among children.

252 We also investigated the transfer of virulent bacteria and virulence genes. Close  
253 similarities were observed among seven isolates with the virulence gene CNF1 from children  
254 in 2007 and 2008 as well as among quinolone-resistant isolates from a child and a teacher.  
255 CNF1 was detected in isolates from children in 2007 as well as 2008. This result showed the  
256 transfer of virulent bacteria as well as a virulence gene.

257 A monitoring system as well as thorough hygiene practices must be performed to  
258 prevent the transfer of resistant bacteria from child care providers to children or between  
259 children.

260

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263

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349 Table 1. Sequences of PCR primers for virulence gene and product size.

Virulence gene	Primers <sup>a</sup>	Product size (nucleotides)
VT1	fp: 5'-ACGTTACAGCGTGTGCRGGGATC-3' bp:5'-TTGCCACAGACTGCGTCAGTRAGG-3'	121
VT2	fp: 5'TGTGGCTGGGTTTCGTTAATACGGC-3' bp:5'-TCCGTTGTCATGGAAACCGTTGTC-3'	102
VT2e	fp: 5'-CCAGAATGTCAGATAACTGGCGAC-3' bp:5'-GCTGAGCACTTTGTAACAATGGCTG-3'	322
<i>eaeA</i>	fp: 5'-TGAGCGGCTGGCATGAGTCATAC-3' bp:5'-TCGATCCCCATCGTCACCAGAGG-3'	241
CNF1	fp: 5'-GGCGACAAATGCAGTATTGCTTGG-3' bp:5'-GACGTTGGTTGCGGTAATTTTGGG-3'	552
CNF2	fp: 5'-GTGAGGCTCAACGAGATTATGCACTG-3' bp:5'-CCACGCTTCTTCTTCAGTTGTTCCCTC-3'	839
LTI	fp: 5'-TGGATTCATCATGCACCACAAGG-3' bp:5'-CCATTTCTCTTTTGCCTGCCATC-3'	360
STI	fp: 5'-TTTCCCCTCTTTTAGTCAGTCAACTG-3' bp:5'-GGCAGGATTACAACAAAGTTCACAG-3'	160
STII	fp: 5'-CCCCCTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTTCC-3' bp:5'-TGCTCCAGCAGTACCATCTCTAACCC-3'	423
Ein <sub>v</sub>	fp: 5'-TGGAAAACTCAGTGCCTCTGCGG-3' bp:5'-TTCTGATGCCTGATGGACCAGGAG-3'	140
Eagg	fp: 5'-AGACTCTGGCGAAAGACTGTATC-3' bp:5'-ATGGCTGTCTGTAATAGATGAGAAC-3'	194

350 <sup>a</sup> fp, forward primer; bp, backward primer; R = A and G.

1 Table 2. Resistance rate of *E. coli* isolated from a child care center.

Class and antimicrobial agent	2007		2008		2009		Total		
	Teacher (n = 10) <sup>a</sup>	Child (n = 44)	Teacher (n = 2)	Child (n = 21)	Teacher (n = 2)	Child (n = 25)	Teacher (n = 14)	Child (n = 90)	Total (n = 104)
Penicillin									
Ampicillin	4 (40.0) <sup>b</sup>	23 (52.3)	1 (50.0)	13 (61.9)	1 (50.0)	15 (60.0)	6 (42.9)	51 (56.7)	57 (54.8)
Cephem									
Cephalothin	0 (0.0)	10 (22.7)	0 (0.0)	6 (28.6)	1 (50.0)	10 (40.0)	1 (7.1)	26 (28.9)	27 (26.0)
Cefazoline	0 (0.0)	5 (11.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (9.5)	1 (50.0)	6 (24.0)	1 (7.1)	13 (14.4)	14 (13.5)
Cefoxitin	0 (0.0)	2 (4.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (5.6)	5 (4.8)
Cefotaxime	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (4.8)	0 (0.0)	4 (16.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (5.6)	5 (4.8)
Ceftazidime	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Aminoglycoside									
Gentamicin	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (50.0)	3 (14.3)	1 (50.0)	1 (4.0)	2 (14.3)	4 (4.4)	6 (5.8)
Streptomycin	1 (10.0)	5 (11.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (9.5)	0 (0.0)	6 (24.0)	1 (7.1)	13 (14.4)	14 (13.5)
Tetracycline									
Tetracycline	3 (30.0)	9 (20.5)	1 (50.0)	8 (38.1)	1 (50.0)	10 (40.0)	5 (35.7)	27 (30.3)	32 (30.8)
Fluoroquinolone									
Ciprofloxacin	1 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (9.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.1)	2 (2.2)	3 (2.9)
Norfloxacin	1 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (9.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.1)	2 (2.2)	3 (2.9)
Quinolone									
Nalidixic acid	2 (20.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (50.0)	5 (23.8)	1 (50.0)	1 (4.0)	4 (28.6)	6 (6.7)	10 (9.6)
Phenicol									
Chloramphenicol	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

2 <sup>a</sup>Number of *E. coli* isolates.

3 <sup>b</sup>Values in parentheses are percentages.

Table 3. MIC<sub>50</sub> and MIC<sub>90</sub> of *E. coli* isolated from a child care center.

Class and antimicrobial agent	Teachers (n=14)		Children (n=90)	
	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>	MIC <sub>50</sub>	MIC <sub>90</sub>
Penicillin				
Ampicillin	8	>128	32	>128
Cephems				
Cephalothin	8	16	8	>128
Cefazoline	2	8	4	>128
Cefoxitin	4	4	4	8
Cefotaxime	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5	1
Ceftazidime	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5	1
Aminoglycosides				
Gentamicin	1	64	1	1
Streptomycin	8	16	4	128
Tetracyclines				
Tetracycline	1	128	1	128
Fluoroquinolones				
Ciprofloxacin	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5
Norfloxacin	≤0.5	1	≤0.5	≤0.5
Quinolone				
Nalidixic acid	4	128	4	4
Phenicols				
Chloramphenicol	8	8	8	8

MIC<sub>50</sub>, 50% minimum inhibitory concentration; MIC<sub>90</sub>, 90% minimum inhibitory concentration.

1 Table 4. Mutations detected in the DNA topoisomerase genes of *E. coli*

Strain no.	Year		<i>gyrA</i>		<i>parC</i>		<i>parE</i>	
			Amino acid	Substitution	Amino acid	Substitution	Amino acid	Substitution
1F561	2007	Teacher-HSE	Ser83	Leu	Ser80	Ile	Ile529	Leu
			Asp87	Asn	Glu84	Val		
1F572	2007	Teacher-LSH	Ser83	Leu				
			<b>Pro126</b>	<b>Leu</b>				
1F601	2008	Child-PHJ	Ser83	Leu	Ser80	Ile		
			Asp87	Asn	Glu84	Val		
1F613	2008	Teacher-HSE	Ser83	Leu			Ile529	Leu
1F615	2008	Child-KSJ	Ser83	Leu			Ser458	Ala
							Ile529	Leu
1F619	2008	Child-YCM	Ser83	Leu				
1F620	2008	Child-KDH	Ser83	Leu	Ser80	Ile	Ile529	Leu
			Asp87	Asn	Glu84	Val		
1F628	2008	Child-WWB	Ser83	Leu				
1G123	2009	Child-YCS	Ser83	Leu			Ser458	Ala
							Ile529	Leu
1G130	2009	Teacher-HSE	Ser83	Leu				

2 Bold, new mutation in *gyrA*

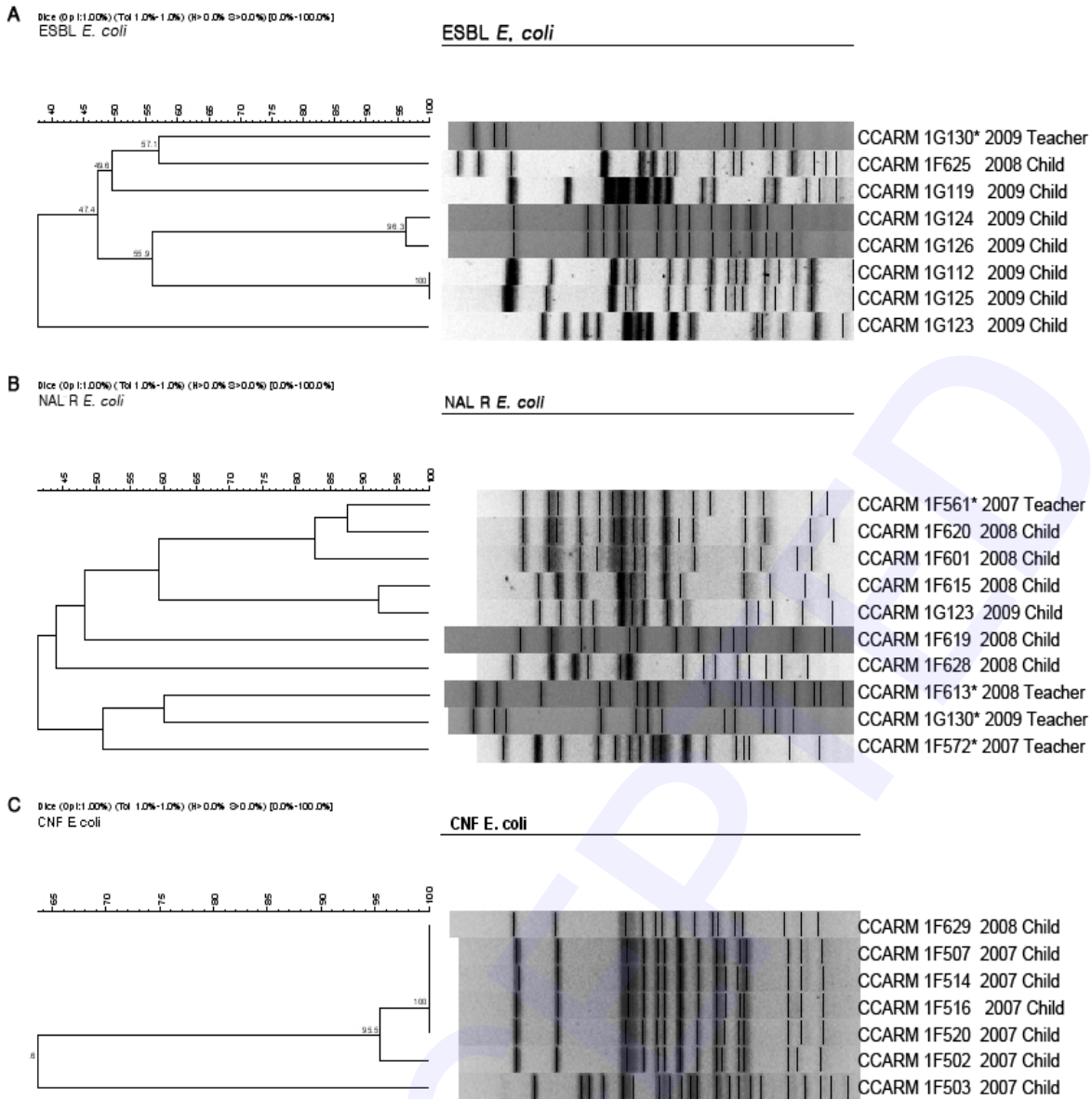


Fig. 1. Figure 1. Dendrogram of *E. coli* isolates based on PFGE profiles of XbaI-digested genomic DNA using DNA Gel-compar software. A, ESBL-producing isolates; B, nalidixic acid-resistant isolates; C, CNF-producing isolates