

Genetic Polymorphism of Iraqi *Leishmania tropica* Isolates Based on HSP70 Gene

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Abstract: Leishmaniasis is one of the important parasitic diseases, affecting mainly low social class people in developing countries, and is more prevalent and endemic in the tropical and subtropical regions of old world and new world. Despite of broad distribution in Iraq, little known about the genetic characteristics of the causative agents. So this study was aimed to evaluate the genetic variety of two Iraqi *Leishmania tropica* isolates based on heat shock protein gene sequence 70 (HSP70) in comparison with universal isolates recorded sequences data. After amplification and sequencing of HSP70 gene, the obtained results were alignment along with homologous *Leishmania* sequences retrieved from NCBI by using BLAST. The analysis results showed presence of particular gene mutations including substitution and insertion at 93% identity with the HSP70 gene. So, indicate the presence of numeric variation of local isolate and this is the first step toward future phylogenetic study to understand genomic diversity across *Leishmania tropica* parasite.

Keywords: Cutaneous leishmaniasis, HSP70sen/HSP70ant, BLAST, PCR, Sequencing, Baghdad.

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I. Introduction

Leishmaniasis is one of the neglected infectious diseases causes serious health concern globally [1]. The clinical and epidemiological characteristics, response to treatment and prognosis, can vary depending on species [2]. At present, 53 *Leishmania* spp. are known and at least 21 of them are pathogenic to humans [3]. Although the different *Leishmania* species are morphologically very similar, they cause many clinical forms including cutaneous (CL), Mucocutaneous (MCL), and visceral leishmaniasis (VL) [4]. Cutaneous and visceral, are found in Iraq, with a population of nearly 32 million, where 23% are living below the national poverty line, has seen much strife and struggle in the past 25 years. Cutaneous leishmaniasis, widely spread specially in the central region of the country [5]. The direct parasitological methods for detection the parasite had certain limitations, so indirect ways were designed, most of them based on the detection of parasite's DNA [3]. Since long years the advance of DNA amplification through PCR has facilitated the improvement of fast and sensitive methods able for molecular typing of *Leishmania* in variant biological samples. Several PCR assays for the combined detection and differentiation of parasites exist, including species-specific PCR [6, 7]. Species discrimination generally involves the following methods: direct sequencing of a PCR product, application of SSCP [8], use of species-specific restriction sites via RFLP analysis [9, 10], PCR fingerprinting [11], RAPD [12], or HRM [13]. Of these techniques, only PCR-RFLP and sequencing analysis are appropriate for the determination of all *Leishmania* sp. [4]. A more informative method is the sequencing analysis of the amplicons. The subsequent identification of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) or comparison of the obtained sequence with available reference sequences allows for species determination followed by evolutionary relationships analysis among the sequenced isolates. In comparative sequence analysis, it is crucial to select appropriate reference sequences and can be adopted to detect different species that belong to the same genus [14].

Sequencing of specific gene is an important task within bioinformatics, it based on the alignments between numerous DNA sequences. One of the main goal of sequence alignment is the determination of homologous gene regions. In addition, significant important of mutation detection to access for virulence genetic progress and useful in preventive management. So this study was aimed to determine mutation occurred on two Iraqi *Leishmania tropica* HSP70 gene in compare with universal recorded sequences based on BLAST.

II. Materials And Methods

2.1 *Leishmania* isolates used in this study

Two *Leishmania tropica* isolates that used in this study were kindly provided by Biology Department/ College of Science/University of Baghdad.

2.2 Cultivation of isolate

Procyclic promastigotes were cultivated in M199 medium supplemented with 10% HIFBS and 1% streptomycin/penicillin (Pen/Strep) then incubated at 26°C for 3 days for obtaining massive culture [15].

2.3 DNA extraction

DNA extraction from cultures of the parasite was made using the QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Then DNA was stored at -20°C until use.

2.4 Oligonucleotide sequence

The primer pair HSP70sen/HSP70ant (table 1) targeting *HSP70* gene (alpha DNA/Canada).

Table1: Primers used to detect *LeishmaniaHSP70* gene:

Oligonucleotide	Sequence	Reference
HSP70sen/HSP70ant	5' GACGGTGCCTGCCTACTTCAA 3'	[16]
	5' CCGCCCATGCTCTGGTACATC 3'	

2.5 PCR amplification

PCR amplification mixture which used for detection of each gene was carried out in 25 µl volume includes GoTaq® Green Master Mix, 2X (12.5 µl), 3 µl of 25 ng DNA template, 1 µl (1 Mm) of each forward and reverse primers and 7.5 µl of nuclease free water to complete the amplification mixture to 25µl. Amplification was performed in a thermal cycler (Eppendorf®) programmed for 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 1 min, annealing at 61°C for 1 min, and extension at 72°C for 2 min, unprecedented by an initial denaturation of 2 min at 94°C. Final extension was for 3 min at 72°C.

2.6 Gel electrophoresis

PCR product was examined on agarose gel to confirm that there is a specific product with the desired size. The product was electrophoresed on 1% agarose gel containing Ethidium bromide (0.5 mg/ml) in Tris-Acetate-EDTA buffer (TAE buffer) and photographed under UV illumination.

2.7 Sequencing and Sequence Alignment

PCR product plus primer was labeled and sent to Macrogen Company in Korea to preform sanger sequencing by using AB13730XL, automated DNA sequencer. The result analyzed by BLAST website on NCBI.

III. Results and Discussion

The standard PCR was employed to detect *LeishmaniatropicaHSP70* gene. The products were examined by gel electrophoresis in order to identify successful amplification of gene. The result indicate the ability of hsp70sen/hsp70ant primer pair for specifically amplified *HSP70* gene of ~1422 bp, figure (1)

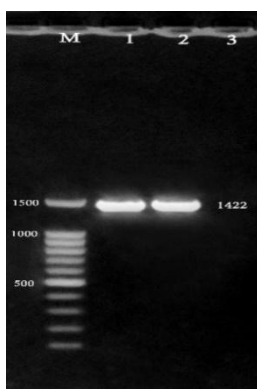


Figure 1: Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR product of ~ 1211 bp of *HSP70*, M-100bp Ladder, Lane (1) first isolate, Lane (2) second isolate, and Lane (3) negative control sample (No DNA template).

The *HSP70* gene has been broadly used for taxonomic and phylogenetic studies of *Leishmania*. *HSP70* region has been found homology on chromosomes 26, 28, 30, and 35. These have been identified as suitable for PCR-RFLP diagnostics that does not need parasite culturing before amplification and so may become broadly used targets [3].

Table 3: Genetic mutations of *Leishmania tropica*HSP70 nitrogenous bases/ First isolate.

Type of mutation	Nucleotide Subject/ Quarry	position
Substitution /Transversions	G → T	62, 294
Substitution /Transversions	T → G	23, 407, 653, 1066
Substitution /Transversions	C → G	80, 245, 422, 577, 641, 665, 860, 965, 1020, 1048
Substitution /Transversions	A → C	209, 554, 1018, 1046, 1071, 1081
Substitution /Transversions	T → C	215, 284, 320, 360, 887
Substitution /Transversions	T → A	576
Substitution /Transversions	C → A	683, 1054
Substitution /Transversions	A → T	1092
Substitution /Transitions	G → C	242, 248, 329, 344,359, 401, 436,587, 728, 1004, 1029, 1062
Substitution /Transitions	G → A	695, 773, 953, 1011, 1069, 1080, 1102
Substitution /Transitions	A → G	3, 282, 725, 749, 856, 974, 980, 1035, 1087
Substitution /Transitions	C → T	8, 140, 671,743, 755, 886, 944
Insertion	A, G, T, G, T, A, G	1005, 1021, 1064, 1075, 1083, 1085, 1093 respectively

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
1605 bits(869)	0.0	1029/1107(93%)	7/1107(0%)	Plus/Plus

Query	1	CGGAGGATGCCGGCACGATTGCGGGCCTGGAGGTGCTGCGCATCATCAACGAGCCGACGG	60
Sbjct	21	CGAAGGACGCCGGCACGATTGCTGGCCTGGAGGTGCTGCGCATCATCAACGAGCCGACGG	80
Query	61	CTGCGGCCATCGCGTACGGGCTGGACAAGGGCGACGACGGCAAGGAGCGCAACGTGCTGA	120
Sbjct	81	CGGCGGCCATCGCGTACGGCCTGGACAAGGGCGACGACGGCAAGGAGCGCAACGTGCTGA	140
Query	121	TC'TTCGACCTTGGCGGCGGTACGTTTCGATGTGACGCTGCTGACGATCGACGGCGGCATCT	180
Sbjct	141	TC'TTCGACCTTGGCGGCGGCACGTTTCGATGTGACGCTGCTGACGATCGACGGCGGCATCT	200
Query	181	TCGAGGTGAAGGCGACGAACGGCGACACCCACCTCGGCGGCGAGGACTTCGACAACCGCC	240
Sbjct	201	TCGAGGTGAAGGCGACGAACGGCGACACACACCTTGGCGGCGAGGACTTCGACAACCGCC	260
Query	241	TGGTGACCTTCTTCACCGAGGAGTTCAAGCGCAAGAACAAGGGCAAGGACCTGTGCTCGA	300
Sbjct	261	TCGTCACGTTCTTCACCGAGGAGTTCAAGCGCAAGAACAAGGGTAAGAACCTGGCGTCTGA	320
Query	301	GCCACCGCGCGCTGCGCCGCTGCGCACCCGCTGCGAGCGCGCCAAGCGCACGCTGTCCG	360
Sbjct	321	GCCACCGCGCGCTGCGCCGCTGCGCACCGGCTGCGAGCGCGGAAGCGCACGCTGTCTGT	380
Query	361	CCGCGACGCAGGCGACGATCGAGATCGACGCGCTGTTTCGACAACGTGGACTTCCAGGCCA	420
Sbjct	381	CCGCGACGCAGGCGACGATCGAGATCGACGCGCTGTTTCGAGAACGTGGACTTCCAGGCCA	440
Query	421	CGATCACGCGCGCGCTTCGAGGAGCTGTGCGGCGACCTGTTCCGACGACGATCCAGC	480
Sbjct	441	CCATCACGCGCGCGCTTCGAGGAGCTGTGCGGCGACCTGTTCCGACGACGATCCAGC	500
Query	481	CGGTGGAGCGCGTGTGTCAGGACGCGAAGATGGACAAGCGCTCCGTGCACGACGTGCTGC	540
Sbjct	501	CGGTGGAGCGCGTGTGTCAGGACGCGAAGATGGACAAGCGCTCCGTGCACGACGTGCTGC	560
Query	541	TGGTGGGCGGGTCCACGCGCATCCCAGGTTGCAGAGCCTGGTGTCCGACTTCTTCGGCG	600
Sbjct	561	TGGTGGGCGGGTCAACGCGCATCCCAGGTTGCAGTCCCTCGTGTCCGACTTCTTCGGCG	620
Query	601	GCAAGGAGCTGAACAAGAGCATCAACCCCGACGAGGCTGTGGCGTACGGCGCGCGGTGC	660
Sbjct	621	GCAAGGAGCTGAACAAGAGCATCAACCCCGACGAGGCTGTGGCGTACGGCGCGCGGTGC	680
Query	661	AGGCGTTTCACTTTCGACGGGCGGAAAGAGCAAGCAAACGGAGGGCCTGCTGCTGCTGGACG	720
Sbjct	681	AGGCGTTTCACTTTCGACGGGCGGAAAGAGCAAGCAAACGGAGGGCCTGCTGCTGCTGGACG	740

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