

1 **Bacterial Profile and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Patterns of Asymptomatic Urinary Tract**  
2 **Infection Among Pregnant Women Attending Ante-natal Care at Kairuki Hospital, Dar es-**  
3 **Salaam ,Tanzania**

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13 **Abstract**

14 **Introduction:** Urinary tract infections are common to pregnant and nonpregnant women  
15 estimated to 150 million new cases annually. The incidence increases with pregnancy due changes  
16 that take place. Causative microbes are *E.coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Staphylococci species*.  
17 The disease presents symptomatically or asymptotically, early investigation, detection and  
18 treatment to pregnant mothers are crucial to avoid maternal and foetal complications. Several  
19 effective antimicrobials are contraindicated using ineffective agents jeopardizes treatment  
20 outcome leading to multidrug resistance. We assessed UTI causative microbes and susceptibility  
21 patterns to common antibiotics.

22 **Methods:** We conducted a hospital based cross sectional study at Kairuki hospital involving 262  
23 pregnant mothers attending ante-natal clinics. Mid-stream urine was collected and inoculated on  
24 Cysteine- lactose-electrolyte-deficient agar, MacConkey and blood agar. Eleven microbes were  
25 isolated and tested for susceptibility against antibiotics using Kirby-Bauer disk diffusion technique  
26 on Mueller-Hinton agar. Data analysed using SPSS package version 23.

27 **Results:** The prevalence of UTI in pregnant mothers was 31.2% (82/262). The gram positive  
28 isolates were more prevalent than gram negative (59.3% versus 40.7%) *Staphylococcus aureus*

29 22/82 (26.2%) and *S. saprophyticus* 15/82 (17.9%) were the mostly isolated . Nitrofurantoin,  
30 Piperacillin/tazobactam have lowest resistant rate to both gram negative and gram positive isolates  
31 ranging from (0-26%) while Erythromycin and Ampicillin have the highest resistant rate ranging  
32 from (60-100%) therefore associated with multidrug resistant.

33 **Conclusion:** Asymptomatic UTI is prevalent to pregnant women at this hospital. We recommend  
34 culture and sensitivity results to guide treatment and usage of nitrofurantoin,  
35 piperacillin/tazobactam as first line treatment of UTI in pregnancy.

36 Key words: Pregnant women, Urinary tract infection, antimicrobial resistance, susceptibility  
37 testing.

### 38 **Background**

39 Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are among common ailments in pregnant and nonpregnant women  
40 and the second pathological finding after anaemia. The prevalence of UTI range from 2-10% in  
41 different parts of the world, notably higher in Africa-American origin and lowest in whites with  
42 lower parity (1).The chance of developing UTI is four times higher in pregnant women than  
43 nonpregnant whilst the incidences are higher in developing world like Africa and Asia (2). Its  
44 estimated that the incidence approaches 150 million new cases per year (3). The UTIs are  
45 associated with anatomical, immunological and physiological changes which take place during  
46 pregnancy leading to urinary stasis and uretero-vesical reflux (4). Basically UTIs are caused by  
47 invading pathogens in the urinary tract leading to inflammation by ascending on the bladder,  
48 ureters and kidneys and other adjacent organs (5,6). If not promptly diagnosed and treated UTIs  
49 can lead to admission and likely to complicate to serious gynaecological and medical  
50 consequences such as abortions, intrauterine growth retardation, still births, preterm deliveries,  
51 maternal hypertension, pyonephrosis due to total kidney infection that can lead to capsule rupture  
52 hence development of perinephrosis and abscess to pregnant mothers and their babies (7).  
53 Clinically the diseases can present as either asymptomatic bacteriuria or symptomatic with acute  
54 cystitis , emphysematous pyelonephritis, perinephric abscess or acute kidney injury (8,9).

55 Generally the disease causative organisms are gastro-intestinal normal flora found in both pregnant  
56 and nonpregnant women, the commonest being the gram negative pathogens such as *E.coli* (80-  
57 90%), *Proteus mirabilis*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* while the gram positive such as *Staphylococci*

58 and *Streptococci* species are less common (8,9). Empirical management protocols which are not  
59 guided by laboratory results are commonly exercised in many health settings. The younger  
60 maternal age and poor adherence to treatment guidelines by the patients are all key factors  
61 responsible for disease development and recurrence (12,13). In managing such situation the  
62 World Health Organization (WHO) recommends treatment of the UTI patients on the basis of  
63 culture and sensitivity testing (Antimicrobial Susceptibility testing) results, the same idea is  
64 advocated by the Tanzania government treatment guidelines (14) (STG). Therefore, failure in  
65 adherence to recommendations increases the risk of creating resistant microbes to commonly  
66 prescribed antimicrobials. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of UTIs  
67 and assess their antimicrobial susceptibility patterns to commonly prescribed antibiotics. The  
68 findings of this study also advocate rational antibiotic use hence limiting emergence and spread of  
69 antibiotic resistance.

## 70 **Methodology**

### 71 **Study design and Setting**

72 This was a hospital based cross sectional study conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at  
73 Kairuki hospital, a private tertiary and teaching hospital for Kairuki University (KU) and Kairuki  
74 School of Nursing (KSN) in Kinondoni municipal, Dar es salaam Tanzania. The hospital has a  
75 capacity of 150 beds, offering services to both inpatient and outpatients, preventive services for  
76 non-communicable diseases, and ante natal clinics where reproductive and child health (RCH)  
77 services are offered. Also, the hospital is a home for offering various specialities such as internal  
78 medicine, women's reproductive health, paediatrics and surgery .

### 79 **Study participants and sample size estimation**

80 The study involved routine pregnant women attending at Kairuki hospital ante natal clinics from.  
81 All consented pregnant women who met inclusion criteria were enrolled in the study. But those  
82 who declined or had taken antibiotics within the past two weeks, had a recent history of medical  
83 instrumentation, or had immunocompromising conditions such as diabetes or HIV were excluded  
84 from the study. The minimum sample size for this study was 275, calculated using a formula for  
85 a single population proportion based on the prevalence of UTIs in Dar es salaam of 23% (15)

86

## 87 **Ethical Clearance**

88 An approval to carry out this study was granted by Kairuki University's Institutional Research  
89 Ethics Committee (IREC) through letter Ref: No HKMU/IREC/27.10/165. The data collection  
90 permission was obtained from Kairuki hospital authority and oral informed consents were  
91 obtained from pregnant women attending ante natal clinics anonymity was maintained by using  
92 unique numbers to each participant instead of names .

## 93 **Data collection**

94 We used pretested questionnaires to gather information on sociodemographic information, clinical  
95 details and UTI related symptoms.

## 96 **Sample collection and processing**

97 During data collection exercise, doctors at clinics conducted face to face education to each  
98 participant on importance of the study, assurance of confidentiality, proper ways of sample  
99 collection, evaluation on the health status in relation to UTI from each participant and voluntary  
100 participation was strongly encouraged and the findings were recorded on the uniquely coded  
101 questionnaires so no names were used except unique numbers in maintenance of participants  
102 anonymity. Then after, participants were provided with sterile sample containers each uniquely  
103 labelled containing 0.5mg boric acid crystals (16),marked with date and time of sample collection  
104 then requested to fill in 10mils of mid-stream urine (MSU) after having cleansed genital areas with  
105 clean water and voiding initial urine. Then samples were brought at designated collection point for  
106 documentation. Eventually collected urine samples were taken to the Kairuki hospital laboratory  
107 for processing within one hour post collection. In case there was a delay in processing within that  
108 time the samples were refrigerated at 4°C to avoid multiplication of microbes in room temperature.

## 109 **Bacterial isolation and identification**

### 110 **Culture and Sensitivity test**

111 By using sterile wire loop urine specimens collected from each participant were inoculated on  
112 Cystein-Lactose-Electrocyte Deficient agar (CLED) (HiMEDIA®Maharashtra,India) Blood agar  
113 and MacConkey agar (HiMEDIA®Maharashtra,India) followed by streaking to allow discrete  
114 colonies of bacteria based on the standard microbiological procedures(17).

115 Inoculated agar plates were then aerobically incubated at 37 °C overnight. After 24 hours, the  
116 plates were examined for the growth of significant bacteria. Bacteriuria was confirmed based on  
117 the presence of >10<sup>4</sup> colony-forming units per milliliter (CFU/mL), growth of one or two distinct  
118 microorganisms from the urine sample, and microscopic detection of 3–5 pus cells per high-power  
119 field, as described by Zboromyrska et al (18). In case of mixed growth a sterile subcultures were  
120 performed to get pure growth according to previous study (19).

121 Furthermore, the positive urine cultures were tested for their physical features such as colonies  
122 morphology, presence of hemolysis on blood agar and biochemical reactions. On addition to  
123 biochemical identification, we performed gram staining whereby Gram-positive bacteria had to  
124 undergo catalase test on pure colonies from which catalase positive were confirmed for  
125 *Staphylococci* and negative for *Streptococci*. We also differentiated between *Staphylococcus*  
126 *aureus* and other *Staphylococci* species by performing coagulase test (16). In contrast gram  
127 negative bacteria were identified based on growing characteristics on (MacConkey media  
128 HiMEDIA<sup>®</sup> Maharashtra, India) whereby bacteria were classified as lactose fermenters and non-  
129 lactose fermenters. Confirmatory of gram negative bacteria were also done by using API 20E  
130 identification profile index software (20).

### 131 **Antimicrobial Susceptibility Tests**

132 Following identification, isolated microbes were subjected to antimicrobial susceptibility testing  
133 (AST) to the selected antibiotics commonly prescribed to treat UTI in pregnant patients (21). The  
134 AST was determined by using disc diffusion technique on Mueller-Hinton agar (MHA)(  
135 HiMEDIA<sup>®</sup> Maharashtra, India ) as per Kirby-Bauer disc agar diffusion technique (22), then  
136 results were obtained by measuring the diameter of inhibition zone and interpreted according to  
137 the Clinical laboratory Standards Institute guideline (23).

138 The measured diameters of bacterial growth inhibition zones around the disks to the nearest  
139 millimeter and the results were classified as susceptible (S), intermediate (I) or resistant (R).

140 The susceptibility tests were performed on the following eleven antibiotic disks(Liofilchem<sup>®</sup> s.r.l.  
141 Roseto degli Abruzzi, Italy) which are commonly prescribed at this hospital: Erythromycin (15µg),  
142 Ampicillin (10µg), Nitrofurantoin (300µg), Piperacillin/Tazabactam (110µg),

143 Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole (25µg), Ceftazidime (30µg), Penicillin-G (10IU), Cefotaxime  
144 (30µg), Gentamycin (30µg), Amoxicillin/Clavulacacid (30µg) and Cefepime (30µg).

## 145 **Data Management and Analysis**

146 All necessary information on each questionnaire and laboratory examination results were carefully  
147 recorded on excel spread sheet and cleaned for typing errors. The demographics and baseline  
148 clinical characteristics were summarized in frequency distribution tables and bar charts. The  
149 prevalence of UTI and the proportional of susceptible uropathogen bacteria against the selected  
150 antibiotics were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Data were analyzed using SPSS package  
151 version 23.

## 152 **Results**

### 153 **1.1 Demographics and clinical characteristics of study participants**

154 A total of 262 pregnant women with mean age of  $31.7 \pm 4.3$  years attended antenatal clinic at  
155 Karuki hospital from March 2023 to August 2023 during study period were enrolled and provided  
156 urine samples. Many participants were in third trimester of gestation (44.7%) compared to second  
157 and first trimester, 36.3% and 19.1% respectively. About 85% of the women were married and had  
158 adequate knowledge on UTI. Miscarriage history was uncommon, and majorities were either self-  
159 employed / business or employed, with large number of members attained a college education  
160 level (73.3 %) (Data summarized on Table 1).

**Table 1. Demographics and clinical characteristics of study participants (n = 262)**

| Variable       | Category               | Number | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Education      | Primary                | 10     | 3.8            |
|                | Secondary              | 60     | 22.9           |
|                | College                | 192    | 73.3           |
| Employment     | Employed               | 112    | 42.7           |
|                | Self-employed/business | 129    | 49.2           |
|                | Unemployed / housewife | 21     | 8.0            |
| Marital status | Married                | 223    | 85.1           |

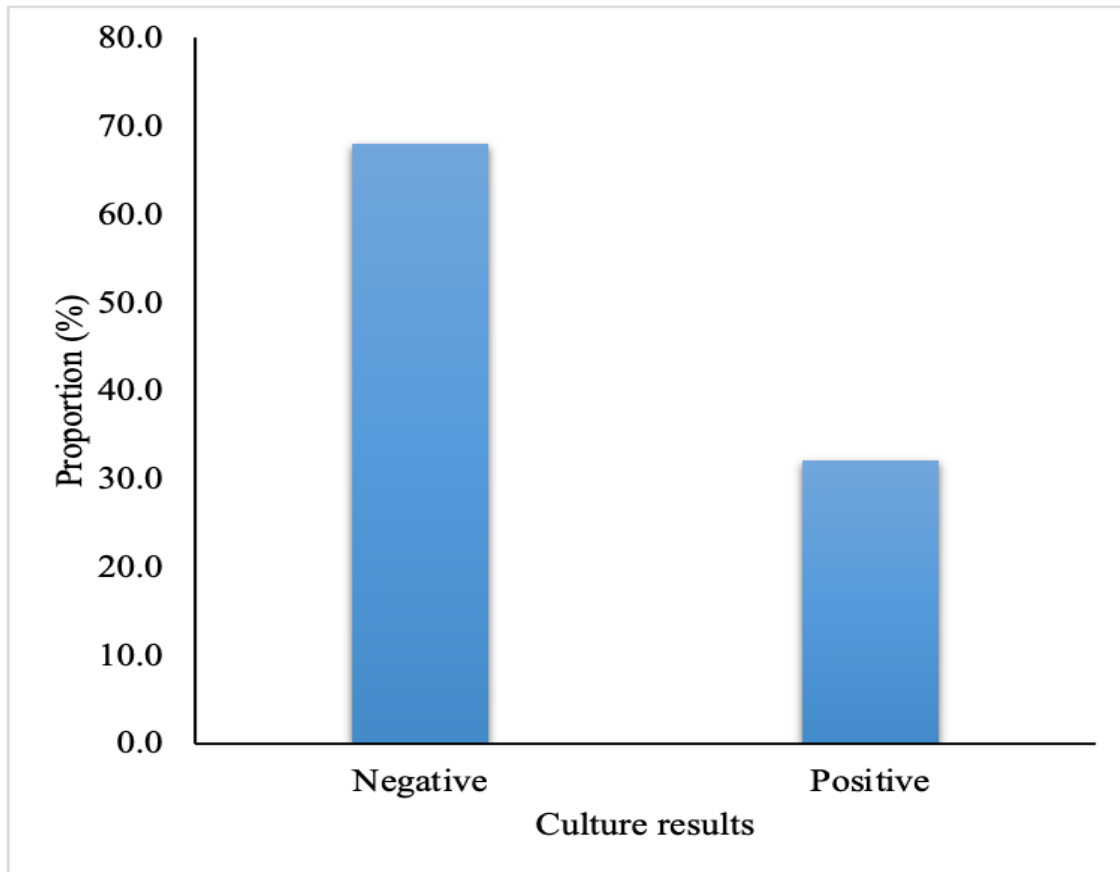
|                     |                  |            |         |
|---------------------|------------------|------------|---------|
|                     | Single           | 39         | 14.9    |
| Knowledge on UTI    | Yes              | 253        | 96.6    |
|                     | No               | 9          | 3.4     |
|                     |                  |            |         |
| Miscarriage history | Yes              | 63         | 24.0    |
|                     | No               | 199        | 76.0    |
| Gram staining       | Culture negative | 176        | 67.2    |
|                     | Gram (+)         | 51         | 59.3    |
|                     | Gram (-)         | 35         | 41.0    |
| Trimester           | First            | 50         | 19.1    |
|                     | Second           | 95         | 36.3    |
|                     | Third            | 117        | 44.7    |
| Age (years) †       |                  | 31.7 ± 4.3 | (22-45) |
| Gravida †           |                  | 2.58 ± 1.2 | (1-9)   |
| Parity †            |                  | 1.27 ± 0.9 | (0-5)   |

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UTI, Urinary Tract Infection; †, data are expressed in mean ± standard deviation (minimum - maximum)

### 161 **The proportional of culture positive samples for different bacterial isolates**

162 A mid-stream urine samples were collected and cultured for identification of different pathogenic  
163 bacterial isolates. Of 262 samples, 86 (33%) samples were culture positive (Figure 1). Among the  
164 culture positive samples, 59.3% of isolates were Gram positive while Gram negative comprised  
165 41% of the isolates.



166

167 Figure 1: **Culture results of the isolated samples (n = 262).**

### 168 1.3. Bacterial isolates from the samples.

169 Among 86 culture positive samples, a total of eleven (11) species of pathogenic bacteria were  
170 isolated of which gram positive were most common 51/86 (59.3%). The *Staphylococcus aureus*  
171 was the predominant isolate (25.6%) followed by *S. saprophyticus* (17.4%) The least isolated  
172 bacteria were gram negative *Enterobacter spp* and *Citrobacter freundii* at a proportion of 2.3%  
173 and 1.2% respectively (Table 2)

**Table 2. Proportion of bacteria isolated from the samples (n = 86)**

| Pathogens isolated            | Samples | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------|
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>  | 22      | 25.6       |
| <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>  | 5       | 6.0        |
| <i>Klebsiella. pneumoniae</i> | 13      | 15.5       |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i>       | 8       | 9.5        |

|                                      |    |      |
|--------------------------------------|----|------|
| <i>Proteus spp</i>                   | 5  | 6.0  |
| <i>Staphylococcus. epidermidis</i>   | 7  | 8.3  |
| <i>Ectobacteria spp</i>              | 2  | 2.3  |
| <i>Serratia spp</i>                  | 3  | 3.6  |
| <i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>      | 3  | 3.6  |
| <i>Staphylococcus. saprophyticus</i> | 15 | 17.4 |
| <i>Citrobacter freundii</i>          | 1  | 1.2  |

174

#### 175 **1.4. Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of isolated bacteria against selected antibiotics**

176 The isolated bacteria were tested for their susceptibility to the commonly prescribed antibiotics  
 177 using the Kirby-Bauer disc agar diffusion technique. The tested antibiotics were erythromycin,  
 178 ampicillin, nitrofurantoin, piperacillin / tazobactam, sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim,  
 179 ceftazidime, penicillin-G, cefotaxime, gentamycin, amoxicillin / clavulanic acid and cefepime  
 180 (Table 3 & Table 4).

**Table 3. Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of isolated Gram-positive bacteria against selected antibiotics**

| Selected antibiotics    | SR | Isolated bacteria type for susceptibility test |                       |                       |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|----|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|                         |    | S.A (n = 22),<br>n (%)                         | E.F (n = 5),<br>n (%) | S.E (n = 7),<br>n (%) | S.Aga (n = 3),<br>n (%) | S.S (n = 15),<br>n (%) |
| Erythromycin            | S  | 0 (0)  | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                   | 0 (0)                  |
|                         | I  | 8 (36.4)                                       | 2 (40.0)              | 2 (28.6)              | 0 (0)                   | 2 (13.3)               |
|                         | R  | 14 (63.6)                                      | 3 (60.0)              | 5 (71.4)              | 3 (100)                 | 13 (86.7)              |
| Ampicillin              | S  | 2 (9.1)  | 1 (20.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                   | 0 (0)                  |
|                         | I  | 4 (18.2)                                       | 0 (0)                 | 2 (28.6)              | 1 (33.3)                | 3 (20.0)               |
|                         | R  | 16 (72.7)                                      | 4 (80.0)              | 5 (71.4)              | 2 (66.7)                | 12 (80.0)              |
| Nitrofurantoin          | S  | 20 (90.9)                                      | 4 (80.0)              | 7 (100)               | 2 (66.7)                | 13 (86.7)              |
|                         | I  | 1 (4.5)  | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                   | 0 (0)                  |
|                         | R  | 1 (4.5)  | 1 (20.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 1 (33.3)                | 2 (13.3)               |
| Piperacillin/Tazobactam | S  | 19 (86.3)                                      | 5 (100)               | 5 (71.4)              | 3 (100)                 | 11 (73.3)              |
|                         | I  | 2 (9.2)  | 0 (0)                 | 1 (14.3)              | 0 (0)                   | 0 (0)                  |

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|                               |   |           |          |          |          |           |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
|                               | R | 1 (4.5)   | 0 (0)    | 1 (14.3) | 0 (0)    | 4 (26.7)  |
| Sulfamethoxazole              | S | 13 (59.1) | 4 (80.0) | 0 (0)    | 1 (33.3) | 7 (46.7)  |
| Trimethoprim                  | I | 2 (9.1)   | 0 (0)    | 1 (14.3) | 0 (0)    | 2 (13.3)  |
|                               | R | 7 (31.8)  | 1 (20.0) | 6 (85.7) | 2 (66.7) | 6 (40.0)  |
|                               | S | 10 (45.5) | 1 (20.0) | 1 (14.3) | 0 (0)    | 4 (26.7)  |
| Ceftazidime                   | I | 2 (9.0)   | 3 (60.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 3 (20.0)  |
|                               | R | 10 (45.5) | 1 (20.0) | 6 (85.7) | 3 (100)  | 8 (53.3)  |
|                               | S | 2 (9.1)   | 1 (20.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)     |
| Penicillin-G                  | I | 0 (0)     | 1 (20.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)     |
|                               | R | 20 (90.9) | 3 (60.0) | 7 (100)  | 3 (100)  | 15 (100)  |
|                               | S | 13 (59.1) | 2 (40.0) | 7 (100)  | 2 (66.7) | 5 (33.3)  |
| Cefotaxime                    | I | 4 (18.2)  | 2 (40.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 4 (26.7)  |
|                               | R | 5 (22.7)  | 1 (20.0) | 0 (0)    | 1 (33.3) | 6 (40.0)  |
|                               | S | 13 (59.1) | 3 (60.0) | 4 (57.1) | 1 (33.3) | 9 (60.0)  |
| Gentamycin                    | I | 5 (22.7)  | 0 (0)    | 2 (28.6) | 1 (33.3) | 2 (13.3)  |
|                               | R | 4 (18.2)  | 2 (40.0) | 1 (14.3) | 1 (33.3) | 4 (26.7)  |
|                               | S | 11 (50.0) | 3 (60.0) | 3 (42.9) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)     |
| Amoxicillin / Clavulanic acid | I | 0 (0)     | 1 (20.0) | 1 (14.2) | 0 (0)    | 2 (13.3)  |
|                               | R | 11 (50.0) | 1 (20.0) | 3 (42.9) | 3 (100)  | 13 (86.7) |
|                               | S | 12 (54.6) | 2 (40.0) | 6 (85.7) | 3 (100)  | 7 (46.7)  |
| Cefepime                      | I | 7 (31.8)  | 0 (0)    | 1 (14.3) | 0 (0)    | 3 (20.0)  |
|                               | R | 3 (13.6)  | 3 (60.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 5 (33.3)  |

S.A, *Staphylococcus aureus*; E.F, *Enterococcus faecalis*; S.E, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*; S.A *Streptococcus agalactiae*; S.S, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*; SR, susceptibility results, S, susceptibility; I, intermediate; R, resistant.

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**Table 4. Antibiotic susceptibility tests of isolated Gram-negative bacteria on selected antibiotics**

| Selected antibiotics             | SR | Isolated bacteria type for susceptibility test |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|----------------------------------|----|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                  |    | K.P (n = 15),<br>n (%)                         | E.C (n = 8),<br>n (%) | P.S (n = 5),<br>n (%) | S.S (n = 3),<br>n (%) | E.S (n = 2),<br>n (%) |
| Erythromycin                     | S  | 0 (0)  | 0 (0)                 | 1 (20.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | I  | 2 (13.3)                                       | 2 (25.0)              | 1 (20.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | R  | 13 (86.7)                                      | 6 (75.0)              | 3 (60.0)              | 3 (100)               | 0 (0)                 |
| Ampicillin                       | S  | 0 (0)  | 2 (25.0)              | 2 (40.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | I  | 3 (20.0)                                       | 2 (25.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 1 (33.3)              | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | R  | 12 (80.0)                                      | 4 (50.0)              | 3 (60.0)              | 2 (66.7)              | 0 (0)                 |
| Nitrofurantoin                   | S  | 13 (86.7)                                      | 7 (87.5)              | 4 (80.0)              | 3 (100)               | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | I  | 0 (0)  | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | R  | 2 (13.3)                                       | 1 (12.5)              | 1 (20.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
| Piperacillin/Tazobactam          | S  | 11 (73.3)                                      | 5 (62.5)              | 3 (60.0)              | 3 (100)               | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | I  | 0 (0)  | 1 (12.5)              | 2 (40.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | R  | 4 (26.7)                                       | 2 (25.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
| Sulfamethoxazole<br>Trimethoprim | S  | 7 (46.7)                                       | 2 (25.0)              | 2 (40.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | I  | 2 (13.3)                                       | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | R  | 6 (40.0)                                       | 6 (75.0)              | 3 (60.0)              | 3 (100)               | 0 (0)                 |
| Ceftazidime                      | S  | 4 (26.7)                                       | 1 (12.5)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | I  | 3 (13.3)                                       | 1 (12.5)              | 2 (40.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | R  | 8 (53.3)                                       | 6 (75.0)              | 3 (60.0)              | 3 (100)               | 0 (0)                 |
| Penicillin-G                     | S  | 0 (0)  | 1 (12.5)              | 1 (20.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | I  | 0 (0)  | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | R  | 15 (100)                                       | 7 (87.5)              | 4 (80.0)              | 3 (100)               | 0 (0)                 |
| Cefotaxime                       | S  | 5 (33.3)                                       | 4 (50.0)              | 2 (40.0)              | 1 (33.3)              | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | I  | 4 (26.7)                                       | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 | 1 (33.3)              | 0 (0)                 |
|                                  | R  | 6 (40.0)                                       | 4 (50.0)              | 3 (60.0)              | 1 (33.3)              | 0 (0)                 |
| Gentamycin                       | S  | 9 (60.0)                                       | 1 (12.5)              | 3 (60.0)              | 3 (100)               | 2 (100)               |
|                                  | I  | 2 (13.3)                                       | 2 (25.0)              | 2 (40.0)              | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                 |

|                               |   |           |          |          |          |         |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
|                               | R | 4 (26.7)  | 5 (62.5) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)   |
| Amoxycillin / Clavulanic acid | S | 0 (0)     | 3 (37.5) | 2 (40.0) | 0 (0)    | 2 (100) |
|                               | I | 2 (13.3)  | 2 (25.0) | 2 (40.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)   |
|                               | R | 13 (86.7) | 3 (37.5) | 1 (20.0) | 3 (100)  | 0 (0)   |
| Cefepime                      | S | 7 (46.7)  | 4 (50.0) | 3 (60.0) | 1 (33.3) | 0 (0)   |
|                               | I | 3 (20.0)  | 3 (37.5) | 0 (0)    | 2 (66.7) | 2 (100) |
|                               | R | 5 (33.3)  | 1 (12.5) | 2 (40.0) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)   |

K.P, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*; E.C, *Escherichia coli*; P.S, *Proteus spp*; S.S, *Serratia spp*; E.S, *Enterobacter spp*; SR, susceptibility results, S, sensitive; I, intermediate; R, resistant.

## 185 Discussion

186 This was the first study at this hospital to examine bacterial isolates profile and antimicrobial  
 187 resistance patterns of urinary tract infection (UTIs) among pregnant women attending ante natal  
 188 clinics, which revealed an overall prevalence of UTIs of 33% being two folds higher than the  
 189 previous study done in Mwanza, Tanzania (17.9%) (24) ,Somaliland (16.4%)(25), ,Eastern  
 190 Ethiopia(14%) (26) Nairobi, Kenya14% (27) but lower than the study done in Morogoro, Tanzania  
 191 (41%) (28) , Central Uganda (73%) (29) and Ebonyi state, Nigeria(55%) (30). However the  
 192 prevalence of UTIs in our study was generally similar to studies done in Mbarara regional referral  
 193 hospital, South-Western Uganda (35%) (31) Ghana (39.8%) (32) and Tripoli Libya (37.3%)(33).  
 194 In this study one could expect the lower prevalence of the infection due to education and  
 195 economical status background of women who participated in this study but it was not the case,  
 196 this could be due to the gestation age as the higher percentage of women enrolled in this study  
 197 were in the 3rd trimester (34) ,but also the variation in prevalence can be the difference in sample  
 198 size , social affiliations, personal hygiene habits and difference in geographical aspects.

199 Basically we didn't notice any association of UTI and demographic factors like parity ,age,  
 200 education background and economical status of the subjects so our study findings correspond to  
 201 the study done in Ethiopia (35). Among isolated bacteria, gram positive were more prevalent  
 202 (59.3%)vs 40.7%) than gram negative. Corresponds to the study done in Ethiopia whereby gram  
 203 positive were more common and *Staphylococcus aureus* predominated (22 ,26.2%)(36) followed  
 204 by *S. saprophyticus*(15,17.9%) and gram negative *Citrobacter freundii* being the least (1,1.2%).In  
 205 our findings Nitrofurantoin and Piperacillin/Tazobactam were sensitive to all gram positive

206 bacteria so using them in empirical treatment especially when treating UTI in pregnancy is  
207 advisable. Similarly, Nitrofurantoin and Piperacillin/Tazobactam were also sensitive in gram  
208 negative bacteria while Gentamycin was more sensitive to *Serratia* , *Ectobacter* species, *Proteus*,  
209 *Klebsiella* but less sensitive to *E.coli*. Sulfamethoxazole / Trimethoprim and Cefotaxime were  
210 sensitive to *Ectobacter* species only so it should be avoided in treatment of diseases caused by the  
211 rest of bacterial species isolates this justifies treatment depending on culture and sensitivity results.

212 Erythromycin, Ampicillin and Penicillin G were not sensitive to any isolated gram positive  
213 bacteria whereas Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim, Ceftaxidime and Amoxicillin/Clavulanic  
214 acid were insensitive to three isolated bacteria (MDR) therefore they pose ineffective outcome in  
215 management of UTI so should be avoided. However, Cefepime was insensitive to *E.faecalis* only  
216 so can be used in treating UTI patients caused by other bacteria though culture and sensitivity  
217 results remains to be important for appropriate management of UTI.

218 Erythromycin, Ampicillin, Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim, Ceftazidime, Pen-G and  
219 Amoxicillin were resisted by more than one gram negative bacteria, so they are no longer potent  
220 in treatment of UTI. Gentamycin and Cefotaxime are insensitive to only one isolate so can be used  
221 depending on culture and sensitivity results or complemented with other antibiotics which are  
222 sensitive.

## 223 **Conclusion**

224 Based on the evidence from this study, UTI prevalence is high among pregnant women in 3<sup>rd</sup>  
225 trimester, The gram positive isolates were more prevalent of which *S.aureus* seemed to be more  
226 predominant. Nitrofurantoin and Piperacillin/Tazobactam were the most sensitive antibiotics to  
227 both gram positive and gram negative isolates whereas other antibiotics such as Erythromycin,  
228 Ampicillin, Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim, Ceftazidime, Pen G and Amoxicillin were less or  
229 total insensitive to many isolates. Multi-drug resistance was appreciated to many isolates justifying  
230 incorporation of culture and susceptibility tests results to guide our routine management of UTI to  
231 pregnant mothers in avoiding of recurrence and creation of resistant microbes.

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235 **Author contributions**

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248 Critically all authors revised the manuscript and collectively agreed to be responsible for all  
249 aspects of this paper and for its publication

250 **Conflict of Interest**

251 Authors declare that no conflicts of interest

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