

Characterization of Invasive Streptococci Isolated in a Nosocomial Outbreak with Illumina and Nanopore Whole Genome Sequencing

Mark M. Li^{1,2}, Xiaojun Liu¹, Peter Hu¹, and Awdhesh Kalia¹

¹ Program in Diagnostic Genetics & Genomics, School of Health Professions, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
² University of Texas, Austin

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Introduction

Nosocomial outbreaks caused by MDR pathogens threaten patient safety and treatment management. Genomics is providing unprecedented insights into pathogen evolution; however, difficulties in producing high quality complete genomes limits the information that can be gained.

Major Findings

Long-Read Sequencing Sacrifices Base Quality Score



1. Joint use of Illumina short-read and Nanopore long-read sequencing data produces high quality complete genome assemblies.



Methods



Figure 3. Comparison of quality scores across bases between Illumina sequences (top) and Nanopore sequences (bottom).

Multi-Locus Sequence Typing Identified Four Distinct Genotypes



Overall Workflow



Serological ID

DNA Extraction

MLST & Sanger

XXXXXXXX

2. All four isolates involved in the outbreak are genomically diverse yet harbor identical determinants of antimicrobial resistance to tetracycline, fluoroquinolones, and macrolides.

Figure 1. (a) deBruijn graph indicating fragmented genome assembly resulting from

SPAdes genome assembly from Illumina reads; b) Weighted histogram of Nanopore

reads indicating N50 of 17 Kb (c) deBruijn graph indicating a completely resolved

circular bacterial chromosome along with an accessory plasmid.



Nanopore Sequencing

Illumina Sequencing

Bioinformatics Workflow



Figure 4. (a) Agarose gel electrophoresis showing successful isolation of HK genes; (b) Sequenced MLST products in a chromatogram showing SNPs between strains; (c) Strains



Annotation & Genome Comparisons **Figure 2.** All four isolates were compared to the reference SDSE strain FDAARGOS_1016 using blastn. Concentric circles from inside to outside show GCskew, GC content and similarities or divergence among the outbreak strains relative to the reference genome. R1 to R7 indicate regions of plasticity wherein isolates show divergent sequence content (e.g., phage insertions, pathogenicity islands, etc.) have different sequence types.

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