

*BLA*_{OXA-23-LIKE} PRESENCE AND 29 KDA PORIN LOSS IN CARBAPENEM RESISTANT *ACINETOBACTER BAUMANNII* CLINICAL ISOLATES IN THAILAND

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Abstract. In Thailand, the incidence of carbapenem resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) is dramatically increasing. OXA-23 carbapenemase has been identified in clinical isolates; however, other mechanisms remain unclear. PCR was used to amplify OXA, MBL and *ade* genes. Outer membrane protein (OMP) components were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and carbonyl cyanide *m*-chlorophenyl hydrazone was employed to detect the role of efflux pumps. Of 22 clinical CRAB isolates from sterile sites, 16 carried *bla*_{OXA-23} and the remaining *bla*_{OXA-23-like}; all were negative for the presence of other OXA and MBL gene types. *AdeJ*, but inactive, efflux pump system was found in all 8 randomly selected CRAB isolates and a 29 kDa OMP was absent. This is the first such properties of clinical CRAB isolates in Thailand and their roles in contributing to *A. baumannii* carbapenem resistance need further investigation.

Keywords: *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *bla*_{OXA-23}, outer membrane protein, porin

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