

Using Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis to investigation of genetic diversity, and relationships among a set of clinical

Aspergillus fumigatus isolates

استخدام مؤشرات ال RAPD في تشخيص التغيرات الوراثية والعلاقة بين عزلات سريرية من الرشاشيات الدخناء

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to determine the genetic diversity and relationships among fourteen local isolate isolated from patients with Aspergillosis (*Aspergillus fumigatus*) by using the Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) technique. Twelve universal primers used in this study produced 94 bands across fourteen isolates. Of these bands, 67 bands or 71.2% were polymorphic. The size of the amplified bands ranged between 100-2000 bp. The genetic polymorphism value of each primer was determined and ranged between 33-100%. In terms of unique banding patterns, determine the finger print for six isolates the most characteristic banding pattern was for the (AFU1, AFU2, AFU3, AFU4, AFU8 and AFU14) with primer (OP F-16 , OP I-06, OP F-16, OP X-01, OP X-01and OP A-06). Genetic distances ranged from 0.12419 to 0.64404 among *A. fumigatus* isolates. Cluster analyses were performed to construct a dendrogram among studied *A. fumigatus* isolates. The cluster analysis places most of the *A.fumigatus* isolates isolated from patient come from yhe same area into a close relation (subcluster) showing a high level of genetic relatedness and were distinct from isolates from another area (the other subcluster). Interestingly, a number of isolates originating from the same sources did form well defined groups, indicating association between the RAPD patterns and the geographic origin of the isolates. The information generated from this study can be used in the future for controlling of Aspergillosis programs.

A Keywords: DNA, RAPD, genetic distance, *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

المستخلص

في هذه الدراسة محاولة لتحديد التغيرات الوراثية والقربية الوراثية بين 14 عزلة من الرشاشيات الخضراء معزولة من مرضى يعانون من داء الرشاشيات باستخدام مؤشرات التضاعف العشوائي للDNA المتعدد الأشكال وقد استخدم 12 بادئ في هذه الدراسة وانتجت 94 حزمة رئيسية للعزلات الأربعة عشر من هذه الحزم 67 حزمة متباينة ويتراوح الوزن الجزيئي للحزم المتضاعفة بين 100-2000 زوج قاعدي قيمة التغيرات الوراثية تراوحت بين 33-100% نمط الحزمة الفريدة استخدم لتحديد بصمة الدنا وفي دراستنا استطعنا تحديد البصمة لستة عزلات والتي تحمل الرمز (AFU1,AFU2,AFU3, FU4,AFU8 and AFU14) وكانت البادئات التي أعطت الأكثر تمييزاً هي (OP F-16, OP I-06, OP F-16, OP X-01, OP X-01and OP A-06). البعد الوراثي تراوح بين 0.12419- 0.64404 بين عزلات الرشاشيات الدخناء المدروسة وقد تجمعت العزلات الأربعة عشر في المخطط الشجري في ثلاث مجموعات رئيسية، ضمت المجموعة الأولى اعتماداً على مكان سكن المريض الذي تم عزل الفطر منه وقد تجمعت العزلات المعزولة من مرضى من مناطق متقارب في مجموعات متقاربة، المعلومات التي حصلنا عليها في دراستنا يمكن أن تستخدم في السيطرة على المرض.

الكلمات المفتاحية: DNA ، RAPD ، التغيرات الوراثية ، القربية الوراثية ، *Aspergillus fumigatus*

Introduction:

Aspergillus fumigatus is an opportunistic fungal pathogen responsible for most cases of aspergillosis , the most common systemic filamentous fungal infection worldwide [1] . The incidence of aspergillosis has increased during the last two decades [2] and saase [3,4].

Infection of *A. fumigatus* occurs by inhaling conidia which may colonize airways prior to invasion. In recent years, several molecular methods have been developed to explore the genetic diversity of *A. fumigatus*, including random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD), RAPD analysis can be performed quickly, a large number of isolates can be analyzed, and it can have a high discriminatory power. [5,6,7,8].

RAPD analysis assays DNA sequence variation in short regions using short primer and a low annealing temperature to generate several fragments in one amplification reaction[9]. Moreover, RAPD analysis is technically simple and often detects variation among isolates [10].

A better understanding of the role of environmental sources of *A.fumigatus* isolates causing infection would facilitate prevention strategies [11]. Clinical and environmental isolates could contribute to the solution of several relevant clinical problems such as the identification of the environmental source of *A. fumigatus* isolates causing aspergillosis, determining the existence of pathogenic isolates and the role of natural habitants, and also providing a guide for patient management [12].The aim of the present study investigation of Genetic Diversity , and Relationships among a Set of clinical *A. fumigatus* isolates .

Materials and methods:

***A. fumigatus* isolates**

A total of 14 *A. fumigatus* isolates isolated from patients suffering from Aspergillosis, (as clinically identified by a physician), from Chest and respiratory diseases specialized center, Ministry of health Baghdad governorate (this specialized center generally accepted patients from different Iraqi governorate). all Isolates identifications were made on the basis of morphological and microscopical features, and were subcultured on Sabouraud Dextros Agar medium at 4 oC, for using it in DNA extraction *A. fumigatus* isolates isolated from patients comes from 1,2,3,4 (Baghdad) , 5 (Salahaldeen) , 6 (Basrah) , 7,8 (Kerbala) , 9,10 (Najaf), 11,12 (Dyala) , 13(Wasit) , 14(Sulaimania) .

Genomic DNA Isolation

Total genomic DNA of all the studied isolates was extracted manually using CTAB method according to the method described by [13].to produce a rapid extraction and high quality extracted DNA. Purity and concentration of DNA was measured by spectrophotometer [14]. Genomic DNA integrity was detected by running on 1% agarose gel electrophoresis followed by staining with ethidium bromide and visualized under UV light [15]. DNA samples were diluted to a working concentration of 50 ng/μl in order to be use in the RAPD-PCR experiments.

Primer selection and RAPD assay

Twelve decamers of oligonucleotides primers random sequence were used (Operon Technologies) in a lyophilized form and were dissolved in sterile deionizer distilled water to give a final concentration of (10pmol/μl) as recommended by provider the primers were tested in this study:(OP X-01, OP F-16, OP A-06, OP E-20, OP D-20, OP Y-03, OP I-06, OP E-16, OP Q-06, OP Q-01, OP A-10, OP N-07)

Amplification reactions were performed in a volume of 25μl containing 5μl of PCR Master Mix (Bioneer), with concentration (1X) containing (10mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3), 50mM KCl, 1.5mM MgCl₂, 200μM each deoxynucleotide triphosphate (dNTP) and 1 unit DNA polymerase), 10pmol of the primer, and 50 ng of template DNA. Amplification was carried out using a thermocycler (Eppendorf-Germany), using the following program:- 1 cycle of 5 min at 94°C for initial strand separation, followed by 45 cycles of 1 min at 94°C for 72°C for primer extension. Finally, 1 cycle of 10 min at 72°C was used for the final extension, followed by a hold at 4°C [16]. Each PCR amplification reaction was repeated twice to ensure reproducibility.

Twelve micro liter of PCR products were analyzed by electrophoresis in a 1.2% agarose gels at 5 Volt/cm for 2 hour in 0.5xTBE buffer, agarose gels were stained with ethidium bromide 0.5 μg/ml for 20-30 minutes. The 100bp DNA ladder (100-2,000) bp (Bioneer) was used as a molecular size marker. After electrophoresis, images of gels were captured using Gel Documentation System (Consort - Belgium).

Data analysis

Molecular Weight Estimation

Molecular weight was calculated by using the computer software M.W. detection program, Photo-Capture M.W. program from Consort, based on comparing the RAPD-PCR products with the known size of DNA fragments of a 100bp DNA ladder (which consist of 13 bands from 100 to 2,000 bp Bioneer).

Estimation of Genetic Distances

Data generated from the detection of polymorphic fragments were analyzed. The amplification profile of all the used isolates for any given primer were compared with each other, the presence of band scored as "1" and the absence of the same band of the same size in other isolate scored as "0". Only clear and reproducible amplified fragments were considered for genetic relationship analysis. Estimates of genetic distance (G.D) were calculated between all pairs of the varieties according to [17]. Based on following formula: $G.D = 1 - \{2N_{ab} / (N_a + N_b)\}$

Where N_a = the total number of fragments detected in individual 'a'; N_b = the total number of fragments shown by individual 'b' and N_{ab} = the number of fragments shared by individuals 'a' and 'b'. Cluster analysis was performed to construct genetic relationship tree diagrams among studied *A.fumigatus* isolates using an Unweighted Pair-Group Method with Arithmetic Average (UPGMA). All computations were carried out using the Numerical Taxonomy and Multivariate Analysis System (NTSYS-pc), Version 1.7 package [18]. The percentage of polymorphic bands was defined as ratio of the number of polymorphic bands amplified by a single primer to that of the total number of bands produced by the same primer.

Results and discussion:

The genetic diversity and the relationships among *A.fumigatus* isolates were evaluated using RAPD markers amplified from Twelve universal primers each of the primers varied greatly in their ability to resolve variability among isolates. Some primers generated several bands, while others generated only a few bands. Figure (1:A and B) .

A total of 94 useful bands were scored from the amplification products with the twelve random primers of DNA from 14 *A.fumigatus* isolates.

The number of amplification products generated by each primer varied from 6 (OP X-01) to 11 (OP Q-01) and ranged in size from 200 bp (OP Y-03) to 2000 bp (OP Q-01). In general, sufficient polymorphism existed to allow distinction between the isolates tested with, polymorphism ranged between (33-100%), primer OP E-20, OP Q-01 and OP N-07 produced the highest percent of polymorphism compared with primer OP X-01. Of these 94 PCR products generated, 29% (27 bands) were monomorphic across all varieties, Many bands appeared in most of the varieties and were absent in only a few isolates. The remaining 67 bands (71% of the total products scored) were polymorphic among the studied isolates . A total of 67 (71.3%) polymorphic bands were observed, ranging from 8 (OP I-06) to 58 (OP E-20) bands with an average of (5.5) polymorphic bands per primer across all the 14 *A.fumigatus* isolates.

This discrepancy may relate to the isolates and the selection of RAPD primers, The arbitrary primers (OP N-07, OP Q-01, OP E-20) was the most useful for discriminating varieties of distinct characteristics.

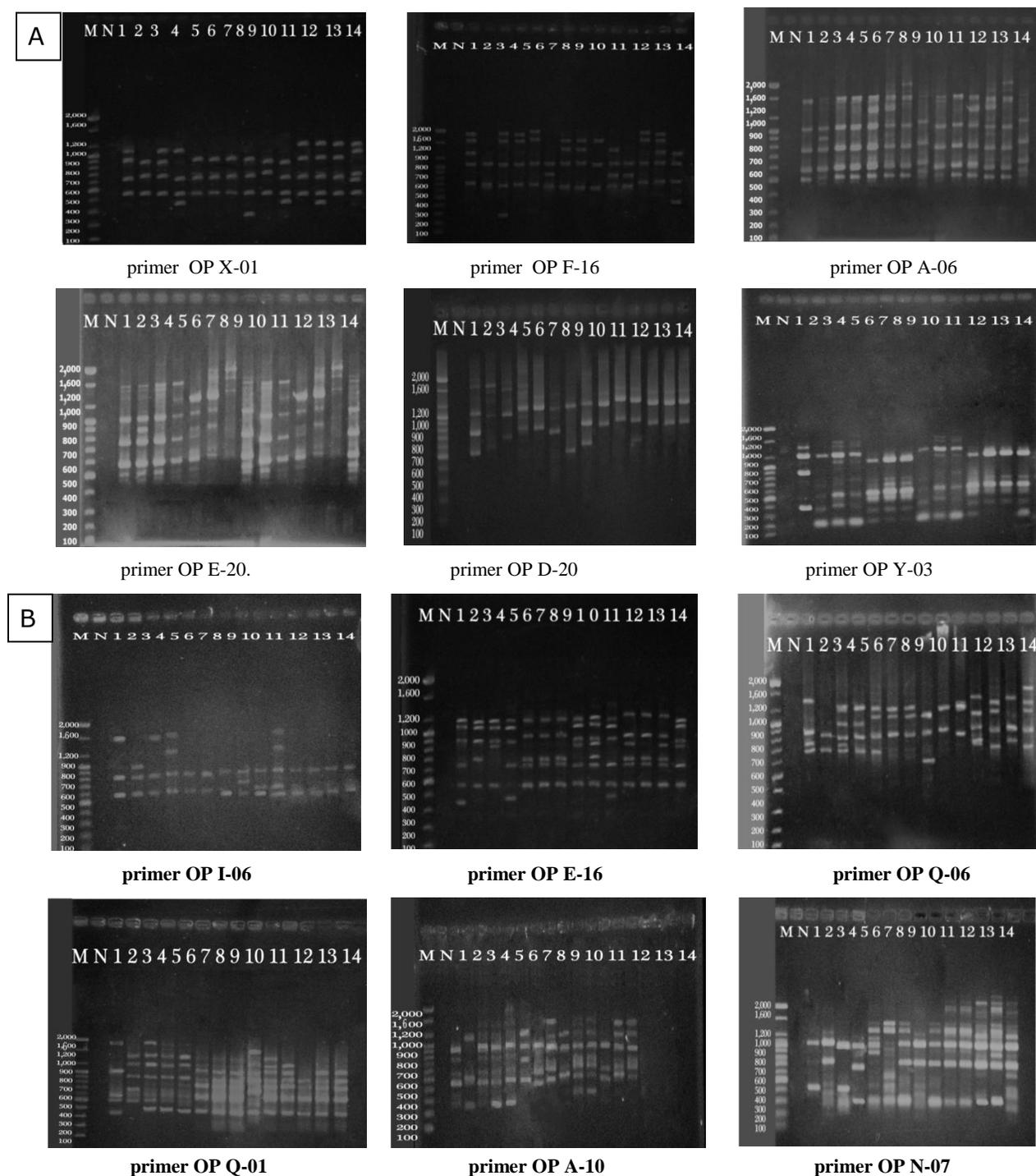


Figure (1:A and B): Agarose gel electrophoresis of RAPD-PCR reaction All primers, DNA samples of *A.fumigatus* isolates (under optimal conditions). Bands were fractionated by electrophoresis on a 1.2% agarose gel (2hr, 5V/cm, 1XTris-borate buffer) and visualized under U.V. light after staining with ethidium bromide. M: 100 bp DNA ladder. N: negative control. Lanes : *A. fumigatus* isolates from patients comes from : Lanes 1,2,3,4 (Baghdad) , Lanes:5(Salahaldeen) , Lanes:6 (Basrah) , Lanes: 7,8 (Kerbala) , Lanes:9,10 (Najaf), Lanes:11,12(Dyala) , Lanes:13(Wasit) , Lanes:14(Sulaimania) .

Six of *A.fumigatus* isolates were distinguished by different primers in this study which produced the most important unique markers such as the isolate number '1' was distinguished by using primer (OP F-16

(1,200)bp , OP D-20(2,000)bp, OP Y-03(2,000)bp, OP E-16 (400)bp, OP Q-06(1,600)bp), isolate number '2' was distinguished by using primer (OP I-06 (1,000)bp), isolate number "3" by using primer (OP F-16 (300)bp), isolate number "4" was distinguished by using primer (OP X-01(400)bp) both of (OP X-01 (300)bp and OP Q-06 (600)bp) primers were distinguished the isolate number "8", while the isolates number "14" was distinguished by primer (OP A-06 (1,200bp)) and (OP A-06(700bp)) Thus, with selected primers sufficient polymorphism could be detected to allow identification of individual isolates, In most cases, the isolates with number "3 and 4", "6 and 8", "11 and 12", "9 and 10" were genetically related, although clear differences between them could be seen.

Genetic Distances

The ratio of genetic similarity among the *A.fumigatus* isolates ranged from 0.35 to 0.87 table (1). The highest similarity (0.87) 87% was obtained between the isolate number '11' and '12'. This was followed by (0.79) 75% similarity between a pair of the isolates number '3 and 4'. The lowest level of similarity (0.36) 0% was obtained between the isolates number '2' and '11'.

In this study, the value of genetic similarity is relatively agree when compared to the reports of other RAPD studies genetic similarity among clinical isolate of *A.fumigatus* in different area [19].

Cluster analysis

Dendrogram was constructed based on [17]. Genetic distance using UPGMA cluster analysis and depicted genetic relationships among 14 *A. fumigatus* isolates, showing four major clusters I, II, III and IIII Figure (2). As expected all introduced isolates: the isolate number "1,3,4,2" were grouped into a cluster, including three subclusters, and other isolate with number "5,11,12,13,6" were grouped into a cluster, including three subclusters, the third clusters the isolates "7,8,9,10" were grouped into a cluster including two subclusters. The fourth major clusters including the isolate number "14" only. These fourth main group link together finally as shown in the figure (2).

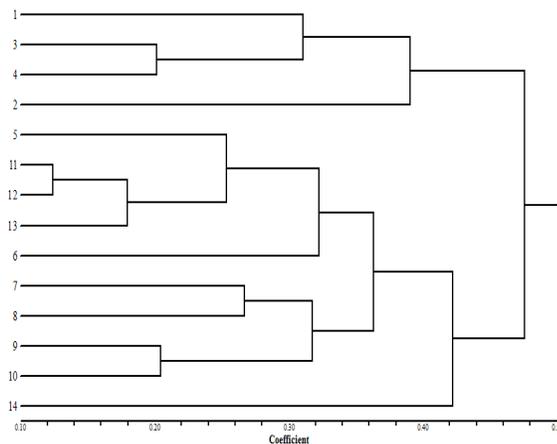


Fig (2): Dendrogram illustrated genetic fingerprint and relationships between *A.fumigatus* isolates developed from RAPD data .

A. fumigatus isolates from patients comes from : 1,2,3,4 (Baghdad) , 5(Salahaldeen) , 6 (Basrah) , 7,8 (Kerbala) , 9,10 (Najaf), 11,12(Dyala) , 13(Wasit) , 14(Sulaimania) .

Table(1): Values of genetic distance between *A. fumigates* isolates calculated according to[17]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	0.00000													
2	0.41160	0.00000												
3	0.22805	0.29588	0.00000											
4	0.39361	0.46428	0.20135	0.00000										
5	0.50461	0.48235	0.34605	0.25126	0.00000									
6	0.55470	0.66905	0.61433	0.58206	0.33393	0.00000								
7	0.43316	0.52317	0.48420	0.56972	0.35667	0.30003	0.00000							
8	0.44550	0.49470	0.53429	0.58206	0.48235	0.45548	0.26724	0.00000						
9	0.43316	0.40539	0.44784	0.41557	0.32158	0.33393	0.28768	0.26724	0.00000					
10	0.44550	0.49470	0.39119	0.26361	0.23549	0.45548	0.36902	0.34628	0.20472	0.00000				
11	0.45559	<u>0.64404</u>	0.47154	0.43928	0.21048	0.28737	0.30892	0.43047	0.34402	0.28737	0.00000			
12	0.42536	0.46428	0.40494	0.34093	0.19242	0.26361	0.31378	0.46428	0.31378	0.26361	<u>0.12419</u>	0.00000		
13	0.46932	0.64634	0.48400	0.41664	0.35774	0.40518	0.32384	0.47929	0.42920	0.37009	0.18602	0.17301	0.00000	
14	0.51696	0.53552	0.49655	0.46428	0.48235	0.57808	0.44313	0.38137	0.40539	0.41774	0.39273	0.29438	0.40518	0.00000

In this analysis, the isolate number "14" appeared to be genetically distinct due to this isolate isolated from patient comes from Al sulaimania the lower level of the similarity with all other isolate. Therefore, it formed a separate group (IV group).

Cluster analysis has placed most of the *A. fumigatus* isolates isolated from patients from the same government together, showing a high level of genetic relatedness and these were distinct from those isolates isolated from another government.

the dendrogram indicates a clear pattern of division among the *A. fumigatus* based on geographic origin of the isolates. Therefore, cluster analysis grouped the 14 isolates into four main clusters which correlated with their geographic origin

The analysis clearly distinguished among studied *A. fumigatus*. Such studies can be used to study genetic differences of isolates for their identification. Therefore, it might be predicted that RAPD may be effective in analyzing polymorphism at the *A. fumigatus* isolates, In the present study RAPD markers provided sufficient resolution to distinguish closely related isolates.

The information generated from this study gives a clearer picture of their genetic relationship and might possibly be developed into a standard classification procedure in the future and will be used in identifying efficient strategies for the controlling of aspergillosis caused by *A. fumigatus* in different governorates in Iraq.

The genetic distance between the isolates in our study may be due to that *A. fumigatus* is morphologically more variable [20,21] than was originally described by [22]. These variations have led to the description of several varieties of *A. fumigatus*, including *acolumnaris*, *phialiseptus*, *ellipticus*, and *sclerotiorum*, with the distinctions being based on only slight morphological differences. *A. fumigatus*, *A. brevipes*, *A. duricaulis*, *A. unilateralis*, *A. viridinutans*, together with anamorphs of species within the perfect genus *Neosartorya*, a genus in which morphologically related species have been grouped, are classified as *Aspergillus* sect. *fumigati*. The search for a sexual stage of *A. fumigatus* has been attempted among *Neosartorya* species, since it would allow classical genetics to be pursued in *A. fumigatus*. To date, no such stage has been discovered.

The benefits of using DNA-based typing techniques for the study of the genetic diversity of clinical isolates, revealing sources of infection, and for contributing to the solution of several relevant epidemiological problems of *A. fumigatus* linked isolates [23]. An ideal technique should provide sufficient discrimination for the strains isolated from the epidemiological study of nosocomial outbreaks or from individual patients and their environment. However, only a limited number of the methods are useful for type *A. fumigatus* isolates. RAPD-PCR has been examined as a typing system for *A. fumigatus* typing due to both its usefulness and its relative technical simplicity and speed [24,25,26,27]. The major advantage of RAPD is that no previous sequence information is needed in contrast with other techniques like RFLP or microsatellite typing [23].

One of the applications of a typing method, such as RAPD, is to establish whether both clinical isolates collected from one distinct area are related. Nevertheless four identical electrophoretic banding patterns were observed with all clinical and environmental *A. fumigatus* isolates. Therefore, it appears as if a close relationship exists between clinical and environmental isolates, suggesting that the environmental strains may be responsible for causing invasive aspergillosis and that RAPD-typing can be a good approach for monitoring the source of infection. Although the extensive genetic diversity within *A. fumigatus* isolates makes it difficult to ensure the determination of area or hospital or environment is the source of infection, the isolation of the identical strains from a patient and from the hospital environment indicates that the infection was nosocomially acquired from the environment. This result agrees with the result of [28].

RAPD-PCR analysis can be applied as a simple, rapid, and useful method, and can also play a remarkable role in typing and differentiating *A. fumigatus* isolates.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, RAPD analysis is a truly rapid and reliable tool in DNA fingerprinting. RAPD analysis is a sensible and accurate method for epidemiologic studies of clinical outbreaks of *A. fumigatus* making use of the habitual techniques available in a current clinical microbiology laboratory.

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