

## Macrolides and Fluoroquinolones Resistance Mechanisms in *Campylobacter* and their Incidence in Egypt; a Review Article

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### Abstract

*Campylobacter* species are primarily zoonotic pathogens and recognized as a major cause of human illnesses. Poultry, especially, chicken is the main reservoir of *Campylobacter* species. The uncontrolled use of antibiotics in prophylaxis and treatment of animals caused an increase in antibiotic resistance to macrolides and fluoroquinolones (FQ) which are considered the drugs of choice for treatment of *Campylobacter* infection. Recently, studies suggested that multidrug efflux systems have the main role in lowering the efficacy of new and old antibiotics. Consequently, efforts are made to find suitable substances to reverse the action of the efflux pumps and prevent antimicrobial resistance. The substances used for evaluation of efflux pumps modulation are either efflux pump inhibitors (EPIs) or efflux pump inducers. The different types of EPIs; phenylalanine arginyl  $\beta$ -naphthylamide, verapamil and phenothiazines, of different mode of actions were used to suppress the activity of different types of efflux pumps. Aspirin, a drug in livestock and poultry, is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, which induces non-heritable resistance of different bacteria to multiple antibiotics. Moreover, it also increases *campylobacter* resistance to antimicrobials. Alpha-tocopherol represents a new alternative approach against bacterial resistance. It shows modulatory activity on efflux system, showing clinically relevant results. Therefore, it is important to study different resistance mechanisms of *campylobacter*s.

**Keywords:** *Campylobacter* spp., Antibiotic Resistance, Efflux Pump Inhibitors,  $\alpha$ -Tocopherol.

### Introduction

Thermophilic *Campylobacter* species were implicated in several foodborne infections. *C. jejuni* is most frequently reported as a cause of human campylobacteriosis (80-90%) compared to *C. coli* (5-10%) [1]. *Campylobacter*s are long spiral forms, curved, atypical Gram-negative rods [2], motile by means of a single polar unsheathed flagellum at one or both ends giving it the characteristic cork-screw motility [3]. All *campylobacter*s grow mainly under microaerobic (3-10% O<sub>2</sub>) and capnophilic conditions (10% CO<sub>2</sub>) at 37°C, but for the thermophilic species; *C. jejuni*, *C. coli*, *C. lari*, *C. hyointestinalis* subsp. *hyointestinalis* and *C. upsaliensis* the optimum temperature is 42°C [4]. This temperature is essential for growth adaptation in the intestines of warm-blooded birds and mammals [5]. Hippurate hydrolysis is the only phenotypic test differentiating *C. jejuni* from other species of *campylobacter*s [6]. The two biotypes of *C. jejuni* are capable of hydrolyzing sodium hippurate to benzoic acid

and glycine [7]. However, recently, false hippurate negative and positive *C. jejuni* strains have been reported in several studies [8-10]

The chicken gut especially the caeca is often colonized by *campylobacter*s especially *C. jejuni* [1]. Consequently, chicken meat and products can be contaminated during processing and are considered the main source of campylobacteriosis in humans [11].

Campylobacteriosis in chickens is mainly a commensal infection [12]. It can infect chickens at young ages and defecation spreads the pathogen among the entire flock, but not before two weeks of age due to maternal antibody protection [13]. Once a bird is infected, the majority (> 95%) of the flock will be colonized by enteric *campylobacter*s within several days and remain infected for life [14].

*Campylobacter*s were recognized as a major cause of human illnesses ranging from acute diarrheal disease to severe illness; Guillain-

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Barre Syndrome [15]. They are naturally susceptible to several antimicrobial agents including fluoroquinolones (FQ) and macrolides which are considered the drugs of choice for infection treatment [16]. However, macrolide and FQ resistance, was recently documented to increase in several countries [17,18]. This is attributed to misuse of antibiotics in the animal husbandry and human population [19]. A unique restriction modification system which may decrease the uptake of foreign genetic material have been identified in *Campylobacters*, however, the acquisition of resistance genes from other microorganisms has been reported [20].

Therefore, studying different resistance mechanisms in *Campylobacter* spp. is important for human health.

## Antimicrobial resistance

### Fluoroquinolones

#### Classification

Quinolones are synthetic compounds with bactericidal activity. They became a widely used class of antimicrobials and divided into four groups according to their spectrum of activity (Table 1) [21].

**Table 1: Four groups of fluoroquinolones based on their antimicrobial spectrum [21]**

Group	Antimicrobial spectrum	Antimicrobial agents (e.g.)
1 <sup>st</sup>	Enterobacteriaceae	Cinoxacin Nalidixic acid Oxolinic acid
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> group spectrum plus <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , many Gram-positive cocci, <i>Neisseria</i> spp.	Ciprofloxacin Norfloxacin Ofloxacin Enrofloxacin Gatifloxacin
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> group spectrum plus <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , some other Gram-positive cocci	Gemifloxacin Levofloxacin Sparfloxacin Trovafoxacin
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> group spectrum plus Enhanced activity against anaerobes	Moxifloxacin Sitafloxacin

#### Mechanism of action

The targets of quinolone action are two large bacterial enzymes; i) DNA gyrase which has two A and two B subunits encoded by the *gyrA* and *gyrB* genes, respectively [22]. In addition to, ii) topoisomerase IV which has two pairs of subunits encoded by *parC* and *parE* [23]. Both enzymes act together on bacterial DNA synthesis [24], quinolones inhibit the DNA synthesis of the bacteria by acting on both enzymes leading to cell death [25].

#### Resistance mechanism

In Gram negative bacteria, the mechanisms causing resistance to fluoroquinolones included target mutations or increased efflux activity [24, 26]. Also, the target protection by inactivating enzymes mediated by the Plasmid

Mediated Quinolone Resistance (PMQR) mechanisms; the *qnr* genes, are reported [27]. These genes produce proteins which protect the DNA gyrase or topoisomerase IV enzymes from the inhibitory effect of fluoroquinolones. Additional PMQR mechanisms have been reported, including *aac(6')-Ib-cr*, *oqxAB* and *qepA* [26].

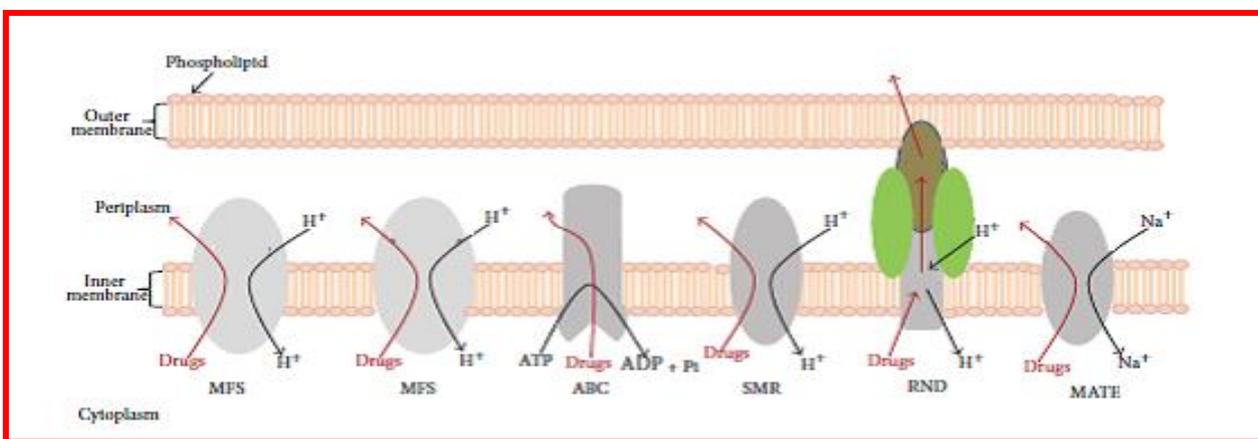
In campylobacters, there are two mechanisms that explain resistance to quinolones including inactivation of FQ target and efflux of the drug [28]. The inactivation process is mainly caused by chromosomal mutations in the *gyrA* gene especially the quinolone resistance determining region (QRDR). However, mutations in *gyrB* did not confer FQ resistance [29, 30]. Different studies reported that *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* lack the *parC* and *parE* genes [31]; thus, they cannot be a source of FQ resistance [32, 33]. In

addition, the PMQR determinants, such as *qnr*, *aac(6')-Ib-cr* and *qepA*, were not documented in campylobacters [26].

Several specific point mutations in *gyrA* are correlated to quinolone resistance in *Campylobacter* species: Thr-86-Ile, Asp-90-Asn, Thr-86-Lys, Thr-86-Ala, Thr-86-Val, Ala-70-Thr and Asp-90-Tyr. The most common point mutation; Thr-86-Ile; leads to increased resistance to nalidixic acid and ciprofloxacin [34]. While, the less common Asp-90-Asn and Ala-70-Thr mutations confer intermediate resistance [35]. However, the less common Thr-86-Ala mutation confers resistance to nalidixic acid only [36]. Moreover, the following double mutations have been reported to be connected with

fluoroquinolone resistance: Thr-86-Ile with Pro-104-Ser and Thr-86-Ile with Asp-90-Asn [33].

Another mechanism of fluoroquinolones resistance efflux; it was reported in 1995 [37, 38]. Efflux pumps are protein complexes located in the bacterial cell membrane and they expel antimicrobials and toxins, lowering their concentration inside the bacterial cell to sub-toxic levels. Thus, giving them the time needed to acquire resistance through more specific adaptive mechanisms [39-41]. These proteins recognize and remove a wide range of antimicrobials of different mechanisms and sites of action. These pumps are also important for bacterial pathogenesis, virulence and biofilm formation [42-44].



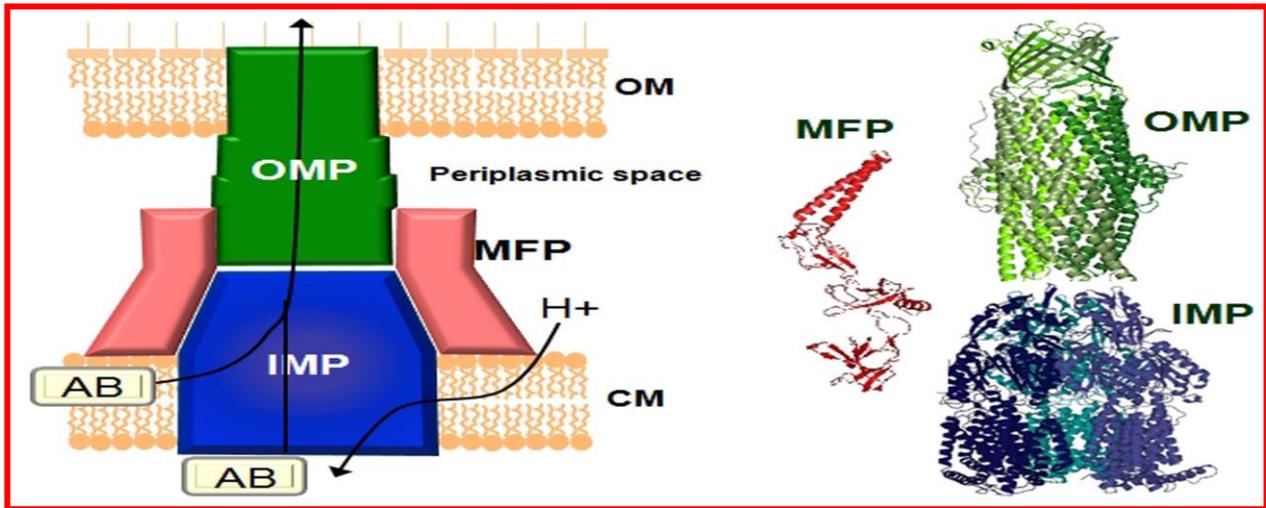
**Figure 1: Different types of efflux pumps [45]**

Bacterial efflux pumps (Figure 1) belong to five super families [45], namely; (i) ATP Binding Cassette (ABC), which are primary active transporters which depend on ATP hydrolysis and play a major role in drug resistance in eukaryotic cells [46] and are lesser known in bacteria; in *S. pneumoniae* [47] and *S. aureus* [48]. (ii) Small Multidrug Resistance (SMR) subfamily of the Drug/Metabolite Transporters (DMT) superfamily. (iii) Multi Antimicrobial Extrusion (MATE) subfamily of the MOP Multidrug/Oligosaccharidylipid / Polysaccharide flippases (MOP) superfamily. (iv) Major Facilitator Superfamily (MFS). (v) Resistance / Nodulation/ Division (RND) superfamily, which are all secondary active transporters driven by ion gradients.

The most abundant pumps are MFS and RND, in Gram negative and Gram-positive

bacteria, MFS are characterized by a narrow spectrum (recognizing usually one or few antibiotic classes) [45]. However, RND are found in Gram negative bacteria and have a wide spectrum for several antibiotic classes, antiseptics, dyes and detergents [45].

Genomic sequence of *C. jejuni* revealed 14 putative drug efflux transporters of different families [49]. These membrane transport proteins belong to four families of efflux pumps; DMT, MATE, MFS, and RND [50]. The RND superfamily relies on tripartite protein assemblies that remove antimicrobial agents from the cell through a double membrane. The tripartite protein complex is formed from an inner membrane protein (IMP) [51], an outer membrane protein (OMP), and a periplasmic membrane fusion protein (MFP) which connect IMP and OMP [52] (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Structure of Resistance/Nodulation/Divison (RND) superfamily [52]**

The RND efflux system; *cmeABC*, was identified and characterized in *C. jejuni* in 2002 [37] and later in *C. coli* [53]. The *cmeABC* efflux system is encoded by three gene operons including *cmeA*, *cmeB*, and *cmeC*. The *cmeA* is a membrane fusion protein, and its amino acid sequence shows similarity to the membrane fusion component in other bacterial efflux systems in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *E. coli*. The *cmeB* is an inner membrane transporter and exhibits sequence homology to those of *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa* and *Salmonella Typhi*. While, *cmeC* is an outer membrane protein and is similar to those of *P. aeruginosa* and *E. coli*. *CmeABC* has established a key role in antibiotic resistance and they function synergistically with other mechanisms in conferring high level resistance to antibiotics [28, 37, 54]. Also, it is essential for pathophysiology of campylobacters [55].

The expression of *cmeABC* is modulated by two transcriptional regulators named *cmeR* and *cosR*. The *cmeR* encodes 210-amino acid protein and is located immediately upstream of the *cmeABC* operon [56]. Homology of the N-terminal sequence of *cmeR* with the members of transcriptional repressors of *S. aureus*, *E. coli* and *N. gonorrhoeae* was reported. The operator site for *cmeR* binding is a 16 bp inverted repeat (IR) sequence, located between *cmeR* and *cmeA* operon. The *cmeR* acts as a repressor for *cmeABC*, mutations in *cmeR* or its binding site leads to overexpression of *cmeABC* and enhances resistance to several

classes of antibiotics [55, 57]. The *cmeR* modulates the expression of additional genes in *C. jejuni* [58], particularly, it controls the expression of Cj0561c (a periplasmic fusion protein) and Cj0035c (a major facilitator superfamily [MFS] transporter) [59]. Therefore, *cmeR* controls the expression of two types of efflux pumps; RND and MFS superfamily in campylobacters. Recently, certain substrates such as bile salts and salicylate have been reported to interact with *cmeR* and induce the expression of the *cmeABC* efflux system, therefore, it is called efflux inducers [60, 61]. The second transcriptional regulator for *cmeABC* is *cosR*, which is the key regulator for oxidative stress response in campylobacters [62]. The *cosR* binds to a site which is 17 bp upstream of the *cmeR* binding site in the promoter region of *cmeABC* and represses the expression of this efflux operon [62]. In addition, *cosR* is predicted to be a response regulator of a two-component regulatory system, and its inhibition led to overexpression of *cmeABC* [62]. These findings suggest that oxidative stress response and the antibiotic efflux system are interactive in *C. jejuni*, and *cosR* plays a bridging role in the interaction [54].

Another RND-type efflux pump identified in *C. jejuni* is *cmeDEF*, the *cmeD* is an outer membrane protein that shares low, but significant sequence homology with those in *H. pylori* and *E. coli* [55]. The *cmeE* is a membrane fusion protein that shares significant homology with the membrane fusion protein in *H. pylori*. While, the *cmeF* is

an inner membrane transporter which shares homology with other RND-type efflux transporters in *H. pylori* and *E. coli* [55]. The *cmeDEF* plays a moderate role in antibiotic resistance in a strain dependent manner and its function is normally masked by that of *cmeABC*. The regulatory mechanism for *cmeDEF* is not known and the conditions that may induce the expression of *cmeDEF* have not been determined. The transcriptional repressor for *cmeABC*, *cmeR*, does not modulate the expression of *cmeDEF* [55].

There are four putative MFS transporters identified in campylobacters; Cj0035c, Cj1257c, Cj1375 (*cmeG*), and Cj1687. The *cmeG* is the only functionally characterized MFS transporter in campylobacters [54, 63], and is present in all strains of *C. jejuni* sequenced to date [63]. It plays a role in the intrinsic resistance to different antibiotics in campylobacters [54, 63]. Analysis of amino acid sequence revealed that *cmeG* shows homology with the same transporters in *B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*. Inactivation of *cmeG* significantly decreased the resistance to several classes of antimicrobials including ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, tetracycline, erythromycin, ethidium bromide, and cholic acid, while, overexpression of *cmeG* enhanced the resistance to various fluoroquinolones, including ciprofloxacin, enrofloxacin, norfloxacin, and moxifloxacin.

The same features of *cmeG* are shared with those of MFS efflux pumps in other bacteria which suggest that *cmeG* may act as a multidrug efflux pump in campylobacters, and also plays an important role in campylobacter resistance to oxidative stress [63]. The expression of *cmeG* appears to be regulated by Fur protein and iron concentrations for inactivation of Fur or depleting iron resulted in up-regulated expression of *cmeG* [64, 65]. The transcription of *cmeG* occurred together with its downstream gene *cmeH*, which is not present in all *C. jejuni* strains. The *cmeH* encodes a putative periplasmic protein with has sequence similarity to *B. subtilis yuiI* and *Salmonella enterica iroE* [49]. These proteins are associated with siderophore uptake in these bacteria [66]. The mutations in *cmeH* not affect its resistance to antimicrobial agents, suggesting that *cmeH* alone does not have a

role in antimicrobial resistance. Meanwhile, fluoroquinolones resistance was significantly increased in *C. jejuni* with overexpressed *cmeGH* operon. In addition, ciprofloxacin was more accumulated in strains with mutant *cmeG* than the wild type strain [63].

Fluoroquinolones cause bacterial death by forming a stable complex with gyrases and DNA [22]. However, antibiotic treatments induce the SOS response in some bacteria. This response upregulates many genes involved in DNA repair, recombination and mutation. These genes are also involved in other functions such as drug resistance development, virulence factors production and horizontal transfer of genetic materials [67, 68]. Han [69], in the presence and absence of ciprofloxacin, compared the different gene expression profiles of *C. jejuni* using DNA microarray. The results showed that multiple genes were significantly changed in their expression in the presence of ciprofloxacin with subtherapeutic concentrations. The *mfd* (mutation frequency decline) gene was one of these up-regulated genes, which is involved in DNA repair [70, 71]. Mutation of this gene resulted in reduction in the spontaneous mutation rate to ciprofloxacin resistance with 100 fold approximately, while, *mfd* gene overexpression elevated the mutation frequency [69]. In addition, the development of fluoroquinolone resistant *C. jejuni* in culture media or chickens treated with fluoroquinolones was significantly reduced by losing *mfd* gene. Thus, indicating the important role of *mfd* in the development of quinolone resistance in campylobacters [69]. Campylobacters may not have the typical SOS response system and the error-prone DNA polymerases [69]. Thus, *mfd* as an alternative pathway for increasing mutation rates may be used by *C. jejuni* when imposed by FQ treatment [69].

## Macrolides

### Classification

The macrolides are group of antibiotics that inhibit protein synthesis. Erythromycin is the first natural macrolide discovered at 1952 in *Streptomyces erythreus*. This class includes also azithromycin, clarithromycin, telithromycin (ketolide) and two veterinary drugs namely, tylosin and tilmicosin. All

macrolide compounds share a lactone ring, and according to this ring structure, they can be divided into either 14-, 15-, or 16-membered compounds [72].

#### *Mechanism of action*

Macrolides bind reversibly to bacterial ribosomes at the P site on the 50s subunit leading to inhibition of bacterial protein synthesis [73]. The key nucleotides contact sites at which macrolide binds mainly are Ala 2058 and Ala 2059 at which macrolides bind and terminate the elongation of the synthesizing peptide chain [74].

#### *Resistance mechanism*

Four macrolide resistance mechanisms were identified; including; target sites modification by mutation or methylation, antibiotic inactivation, active antibiotic efflux and altered membrane permeability [75]. There are three copies of 23S rRNA gene in *C. jejuni* and *C. coli*. In macrolide resistant strains, three copies are usually mutated (homozygous mutation) [49]. Mutations at the positions 2074 or 2075 of the 23S rRNA gene cause high level of resistance to macrolides with the 2075 substitution being more common [76, 77]. However, some strains with low macrolides resistance were found to have mutation in one gene copy (heterozygous mutation), suggesting a dose effect of the gene [78]. However, there are no reports of macrolide-resistant campylobacter strains containing only one mutated copy of the 23S rRNA gene [76, 79]. In addition, the resistance may be caused by posttranslational modifications of the ribosomal proteins L<sub>4</sub> and L<sub>22</sub> [80-82].

Erythromycin is an antibiotic synthesized by the Gram-positive bacterium *Streptomyces erythreus*, which protects its own ribosomes by expression of a methyltransferase; *ermE*, that specifically modifies nucleotide A2058 within 23S rRNA [83].

Enzyme-mediated methylation (*erm*) genes, can cause macrolide resistance, however, it has been only reported in *Campylobacter rectus* [84]. Recently, Qin [75] identified the first horizontally transferrable macrolide resistance mechanism in *C. coli* isolated from porcine. This resistance mechanism is mediated by a ribosomal RNA methylase, *erm(B)*, which is

738 bp in length and has 100% similarity to the *ermB* genes identified in *Streptococcus suis*, *Enterococcus faecium* and *Lactobacillus plantarum* plasmid pLFE1, in which, this gene alone was responsible for the high level of macrolide resistance [75].

The third mechanism of macrolide resistance is the alteration of membrane permeability which is mediated by expression of the major outer membrane porin (MOMP) and chromosomally encoded by *porA* [85]. The outer membrane porins in campylobacters are cation selective pores and smaller than typical pores found in *E. coli*. The smaller pores in campylobacters limit the entry of most antibiotics with a molecular weight greater than 360 Kilo Dalton [86]. Although, macrolides are large molecules (MW > 700 kda) [85, 87], they are very effective against campylobacters. Thus, suggesting that macrolides are able to cross the outer and cytoplasmic membranes. The porins may provide an aqueous environment for transportation of the relatively hydrophobic macrolides and thought to provide access for macrolides to cytoplasm via a “hydrophobic pathway” in Gram-negative bacteria [88]. The outer membrane of campylobacters is naturally lipooligosaccharide (LOS) not lipopolysaccharide (LPS) as in other Gram-negative bacteria, due to lack of the hydrophilic sugars. The LOS membrane in campylobacters increases the hydrophobicity effect and promotes macrolides uptake [89]. This theory is supported by the observation that LOS truncation in *C. jejuni* strains decreases the resistance to erythromycin by 8 folds and that effect was doubled in strains with A2074G mutation [90].

The third mechanism of macrolide resistance is the efflux system which causes macrolide resistance [78], and works in synergism with other mechanisms of resistance providing a high level of resistance [81].

#### ***Targeting efflux mechanisms to control Campylobacter resistance***

The membrane transporter proteins overexpression is widely known as Multidrug Efflux Systems (MES), which are found in clinical isolates with levels of resistance to antibiotics. Thus, the multidrug transporters

may be the major determinant in the efficacy for antibiotics [91]. Continuous efforts are made to find substances capable of controlling the action of efflux pumps and reversing antimicrobial resistance *in vivo* [92]. The substances used for evaluation of efflux pumps activities were either efflux pump inhibitors (EPIs) or efflux pump inducers. The similarity in different Gram-negative transporters structure means that efflux pump inhibitors developed against *E. coli* could be effective against other Gram-negative pathogens [52]. There are at least two classes of broad spectrum efflux pump inhibitors; peptidomimetics and pyridopyrimidines, have been reported [91].

The peptidomimetics family shows EPI properties. The phenylalanine arginyl  $\beta$ -naphthylamide (Pa $\beta$ N) is the first identified EPI in this group and is capable of reversing resistance in various *P. aeruginosa* clinical strains against levofloxacin, chloramphenicol and macrolides [93, 94]. It has an activity against a variety of Gram negative bacteria, such as *E. coli*, *S. Typhimurium*, *K. pneumonia* [95] and campylobacters [76, 96, 97]. The inhibition mechanism of PA $\beta$ N was reported to be effective against RND substrate [95], and it significantly decreases the ciprofloxacin resistance in *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* (2–512 fold reductions) [98].

Verapamil and phenothiazines; Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel blockers, inhibit efflux pump activity of both MFS and ABC substrates by reducing the transmembrane proton-motive force (PMF) potential [99]. They are used as an inhibitor of MDR pumps of cancer cells and also improve the tobramycin activity [100]. They are FDA approved EPI and provide a promising effect as adjunctive chemotherapy for treatment of tuberculosis by inhibiting MFS efflux pump [101, 102] restoring susceptibility to ofloxacin in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *M. avium* strains [103, 104]. The main side effects of using verapamil are neurotoxicity [100] and hypotension [105].

Phenothiazines such as chlorpromazine and promethazine are tricyclic neuroleptics [106]. Chlorpromazine inhibits the PMF-dependent MFS pumps [107, 108] in *M. tuberculosis*, *M. smegmatis* and *M. avium* complex [109, 110], *Burkholderia cepacia* [111], staphylococci, *E.*

*coli* [112], *Burkholderia pseudomallei* [113] and *Salmonella enterica* strains [114]. Chlorpromazine significantly decreases the resistance of wide spectrum of antimicrobial agents including levofloxacin, leading to a significant reduction in MIC values [113]. Also, it has been shown to reverse MDR phenotype of MRSA (methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*) strains, *S. Typhimurium*, and *P. aeruginosa*. These drugs may inhibit the PMF dependent pumps. This action may be obtained by reduction in trans-membrane potential or by their direct interaction with the pump [115, 116]. Therefore, its inhibition mechanism was proposed to be acting on MFS and ABC substrates [114, 117-120].

Alpha-tocopherol is an isoform of vitamin E and characterizes by a lipophilic character which permits the perturbations in cell membrane, leading to damage of the membrane integrity and followed by the collapse of pumps [121, 122]. *In vitro*, it showed a modulatory effect in Gram-negative strains mainly with high level of aminoglycosides resistance. That effect may be due to composition of Gram-negative bacteria which are characterized by higher amount of lipids than Gram-positive bacteria. Therefore, the greater effect of alpha-tocopherol [123-125] is modulating *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* more effectively, when compared with *S. aureus* [126]. It represents a new approach against microbial resistance [126].

Different types of inducers such as salicylate and bile salts can be used. The principal metabolites of aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) are salicylic acid and salicylate [127], and it is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) widely used in livestock animals and poultry [128]. It suppresses the normal functioning of platelets. Aspirin is naturally stable in dry atmosphere, but when contact with moisture it is hydrolysed to salicylic acids and acetic acid [129]. Also, the salicylic acid is widely distributed in foods, plants and beverages [130, 131]. Thus, salicylate can reach humans and food producing animals through different sources. Regarding the great effect of salicylate on mammalian cells, it affects the susceptibility of bacteria to different groups of antibiotics.

That effect occurs due to growth of bacteria in the presence of salicylate around, inducing non-heritable resistance to various groups of antibiotics [132]. Moreover, the resistance pattern of campylobacters is increased to antibiotics in presence of salicylate [61]. Salicylate decreases antibiotics susceptibility by two different mechanisms of actions. Firstly, it may induce over expression of *cmeABC* by binding to *cmeR* and inhibiting its action to *cmeABC* leading to an increase in resistance to antibiotics especially ciprofloxacin and thus increasing emergence of fluoroquinolone resistant mutation [61]. Secondary, it alters membrane proteins,

induces efflux pumps and decreases the susceptibility of certain bacteria such as *E. coli* [132]. *C. jejuni* has an outer-membrane porin (MOMP) [133] and multidrug efflux pump (*cmeABC*) belonging to the same families in *E. coli* [37]. This may suggest that salicylate could decrease the susceptibility of antibiotics by decreasing antibiotic accumulation in campylobacter cells. Previous studies; Randall [134] and Hannula and Hänninen [92] reported that salicylate induced a significant increase in resistance to ciprofloxacin and erythromycin in most of the examined campylobacter strains.

**Table 2: Resistance pattern of macrolides in campylobacters, especially *C. jejuni* and *C. coli*, in chickens and humans in several Governorates in Egypt**

Year	Area	Samples	Species	ERY Resistance%	Ref
1995	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	0	[137]
1995	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0	[137]
1996	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	0	[137]
1996	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	0	[137]
1996	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0	[137]
1997	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	0	[137]
1997	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	0	[137]
1997	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0	[137]
1998	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	0	[137]
1998	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	0	[137]
1998	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0	[137]
1999	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	0	[137]
1999	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	0	[137]
1999	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0	[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	0	[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	0	[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0	[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	9	[138]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	10	[138]
2006	Fayoum	Children	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	0	[139]
2006	Mansoura	Children	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	42.8	[4]
2011	Giza	Chicken	<i>C. jejuni</i>	58.82	[147]
2011	Giza	human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	62.5	[147]
2014	Cairo	human	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	94.7	[142]
2014	Zagazig	human	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	100	[143]
2014	Zagazig	Chicken	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	100	[143]
2014	Zagazig	Chicken, human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	83.3	[144]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken, human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	76.2	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken	<i>C. jejuni</i>	80	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	50	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken	<i>C. coli</i>	100	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	100	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken	<i>C. coli</i>	100	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	100	[145]
2014	Zagazig	human	<i>C. coli</i>	100	[144]
2014	Zagazig	Chicken	<i>C. coli</i>	100	[144]

**ERY: Erythromycin**

### Incidence of resistance in Egypt

Although campylobacteriosis is endemic in Egypt and considered a major cause for pediatric diarrhea [135], fluoroquinolone and macrolide resistance, was recently documented to increase in the isolated strains in Egypt [136-147]. In the period from 1991 to 2016, several studies screened and analyzed the resistance pattern of macrolides and FQ in campylobacters, especially *C. jejuni* and *C. coli*, in chickens and humans in several Governorates in Egypt as shown in Tables 2 and 3 [136-147]. Putnam [137] analyzed the annual prevalence of macrolides resistance rate in Cairo from 1995 till 2000, which was 0%. The first low level of resistance to

macrolides (10% in *C. coli* and 9% in *C. jejuni*) was recorded in Cairo by Wasfy [138]. However, Putnam [137] did not record this resistance in the same Governorate. In 2006, marked increase in resistance level of macrolides was obviously observed in Mansoura Governorate (42.8%) by Omar [140], While, no resistance was reported in Fayoum Governorate [139]. Recently, different studies reported higher resistance rates of *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* in samples obtained from chickens and humans, 94.7% in Cairo [142], 83.3% in Zagazig [144] and 100% in Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum and Zagazig [143, 145].

**Table 3: Resistance pattern of fluoroquinolones in campylobacters, especially *C. jejuni* and *C. coli*, in chickens and humans in several Governorates in Egypt (CIP: ciprofloxacin, NA: nalidixic acid)**

Year	Area	Samples	Species	CIP	NA	Ref
1991	Alex	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>		0	[136]
1995	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	12.9		[137]
1995	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	16.7		[137]
1995	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	0		[137]
1996	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	27.6		[137]
1996	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	39.6		[137]
1996	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	8.8		[137]
1997	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	35.1		[137]
1997	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	44.3		[137]
1997	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	21.2		[137]
1998	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	50		[137]
1998	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	46.3		[137]
1998	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	29.4		[137]
1999	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	48		[137]
1999	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	57.7		[137]
1999	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	39.7		[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	48.2		[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	58.3		[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	32		[137]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>		40	[138]
2000	Cairo	Human	<i>C. coli</i>		24	[138]
2006	Fayoum	Children	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	100		[139]
2006	Mansoura	Children	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	92.8	100	[4]
2014	Menia	Human	<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	20		[141]
2014	Cairo	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	57.9	100	[142]
2014	Zagazig	Chicken	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	100	100	[143]
2014	Zagazig	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i> & <i>C. coli</i>	100	100	[143]
2014	Zagazig	Chicken, human	<i>C. jejuni</i>		50	[144]
2014	Minia	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	20		[141]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken, Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	80.9	83.3	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken	<i>C. jejuni</i>	81.6	84.2	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Human	<i>C. jejuni</i>	75	75	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken, human	<i>C. coli</i>	85.7	92.9	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Chicken	<i>C. coli</i>	83.3	100	[145]
2014	Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum	Human	<i>C. coli</i>	100	50	[145]
2014	Zagazig	Chicken, human	<i>C. coli</i>		75	[144]
2016	Giza	1 d old ducklings	<i>C. jejuni</i>	66.7		[146]
2016	Giza	1 d old ducklings	<i>C. coli</i>	42		[146]

Although the resistance rate of FQ was 0% in 1991 [136], the FQ resistance rates were early observed than macrolides [137]. Putnam [137] analyzed the annual prevalence of FQ resistance from 1995 till 2000 in Cairo. A significant increased linear trend in the rates of resistance for FQ during the study period was observed, which reached 58.3% in 2000 from 16.7% in 1995 for *C. jejuni*. By 2006, different studies reported high FQ resistance rates of *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* in samples obtained from chickens and humans, 100% in Fayoum, Mansoura, Cairo and Zagazig [139, 140, 142, 143], 83.3% in Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum (for *C. jejuni*) [145] and 92.9% in Cairo, Giza, Kaliobia, Monefia, Fayoum (for *C. coli*) [145]. Thus, the study of the resistance mechanisms in *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* is important for both humans and veterinary health.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the increase in FQ and macrolides resistance in campylobacters is documented in Egypt. Therefore, continuous and regular survey for resistance to these drugs is essential for control of infections, which in turn has an impact on human health and veterinary sectors.

### Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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### الملخص العربي

#### طرق المقاومة المختلفة لمجموعي الماكروبيد و الكوينولون في الكامبيلوباكتري: مقال

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الكامبيلوباكتري تعتبر إحدى مسببات الأمراض الحيوانية المنشأ للإنسان و تعتبر الدواجن خصوصا الدجاج المصدر الرئيسي لها. الإستخدام السيئ للمضادات الحيوية خصوصا في تربية الحيوانات أدى لتزايد المناعة لها خصوصا لمجموعات الماكروبيد و الكوينولون التي تعتبر الأدوية المختارة لعلاج هذه الحالات. مؤخرا اثبتت الأبحاث الدور الأساسي لمنظومة الطرد لعدد من المواد المختلفة في كفاءة المضادات الحيوية المختلفة سواء القديمة و الحديثه لذلك تبذل الجهود المتواصله للتوصل لمواد قادره علي عكس الدور المؤثر لمنظومة الطرد لعدد من المواد المختلفة و إستعادة فعالية المضادات الحيوية و لتقييم تلك المنظومه تستخدم مثبطات او محفزات مختلفه ذات طرق مختلفه للعمل. من تلك المثبطات الفينيل ألانين أرجينيل بيتا نفتيلاميد والفيرا باميل والفينو ثيازين. الأسبرين (حمض السيليسيك) هو إحدى مضادة الالتهابات غير الستيرويدية المستخدمه في الماشية والدواجن و نمو العديد من الأنواع البكتيرية في وجودها يدفع لخلق مقاومة غير موروثه لعدد من المضادات الحيوية و ذلك ايضا مع الكامبيلوباكتري. يمثل ألفا توكوفيرول نهج بديل جديد ضد المقاومة البكتيرية فإنه يؤثر على النشاط لمنظومة الطرد لعدد من المواد المختلفة وقد تبين نتائج ذلك سريريا. لذلك، فإن دراسة آليات المقاومة الموجوده في الكامبيلوباكتري جيجوني مهمه للصحة البشرية والبيطرية للتعامل مع هذه المشكله.