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| Journal Name: | [**Journal of Advances in Microbiology**](https://journaljamb.com/index.php/JAMB) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_JAMB\_141110** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Prevalence of Multidrug Resistant and Extended-Spectrum β-Lactamase-Producing Escherichia coli from Clinical Sources in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria** |
| Type of the Article |  |

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| **PART 1: Comments** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | The scientific community is deeply concerned with the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This study provides essential data on the antibiotic susceptibility profile of clinical isolates, which is crucial for guiding appropriate empirical treatments. It contributes to global AMR control efforts, particularly in resource-limited settings such as Nigeria, by offering updated and locally relevant data on the prevalence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extended-spectrum β-lactamase (ESBL)-producing *Escherichia coli* strains in a hospital environment. As such, this study holds significant value for the scientific and medical  communities. | Thank you for reviewing the paper |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The title is clear, informative, and generally suitable. It accurately reflects the content of the study. But, it is somewhat long and redundant ("from clinical sources" lacks specificity).  It could be made more concise and impactful like this “ ***Prevalence and Antibiotic Resistance Profile of MDR and ESBL-Producing Escherichia coli in a Nigerian Tertiary Hospital”*** | Thank you for suggesting an effective title |

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| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | -It can be further improved for more comprehensiveness and clarity in including expressly: background, objective, methods, results, and conclusion  -The study period is not explicitly mentioned → Include the duration (e.g., “from January to June 2023”)  -Specify the types (e.g., urine, blood, swabs) → “in urine, blood, sputum, and vaginal swab specimens collected”  -Some sentences are overly long or redundant. For example: *“This study aimed at investigating the prevalence...”* could be rephrased more simply and directly. | The abstract has been modified |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | Yes but,  -it does not clearly define MDR. A formal operational definition should be included in the methods section  I suggest strengthening the introduction by formulating a more structured problem statement, supported by recent quantitative data on the prevalence of multidrug-resistant and ESBL- producing *Escherichia coli* strains in Nigeria or similar settings.  Provide precise incubation conditions (temperature, duration, atmosphere) for all critical steps (culture, antibiotic susceptibility testing, phenotypic assays).  -Indicate the sources of reagents or antibiotic discs (manufacturer name and country), which is important for reproducibility in other settings.  -GraphPad Prism is cited, but also specify the exact statistical tests performed, beyond descriptive statistics. | The introduction has been modified |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention**  **them in the review form.** | Yes, the references are generally sufficient, relevant, and appropriately cited, with many drawn from peer-reviewed journals and WHO-aligned sources | Thank you |

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| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | The language and English quality of the article are generally suitable for scholarly communication, but several areas would benefit from careful editing for clarity, grammar, and flow. | The overall quality of the English has been improved by thoroughly reviewing. |
| Optional/General comments | This manuscript addresses a highly relevant issue in global health, the rising prevalence of multidrug-resistant and ESBL-producing Escherichia coli, and provides valuable local data from a Nigerian tertiary hospital, contributing to the global effort to combat antimicrobial resistance, especially in low-resource settings. The study employs standard microbiological techniques and offers findings of significant clinical and epidemiological interest. However, several areas require clarification and improvement to enhance the manuscript's scientific rigor and reproducibility. These include a more concise and structured abstract (with clearly stated background, methods, results, and conclusions), an explicit definition of MDR, precise details regarding laboratory procedures (e.g., incubation conditions and reagent sources), and better specification of statistical analyses.  Additionally, the introduction should present a clearer, data-supported problem statement contextualized within the Nigerian or sub-Saharan African setting. While the references are adequate and relevant, and the English language quality is acceptable overall, a thorough language revision is recommended to improve clarity and fluency. If these recommendations are addressed, the manuscript will offer a meaningful and scientifically robust contribution to  the field of clinical microbiology and antimicrobial resistance surveillance. | The manuscript has been updated as per the suggestion. |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |