Genetic Polymorphismof Iraqi*Leishmania tropica* Isolates Based on *HSP*70Gene

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Abstract: Leishmaniasis is one of the important parasitic diseases, affecting mainly low social class people in developing countries, and is more prevalent and endemic in the tropical and subtropical regions of old world and new world. Despite ofbroad distribution in Iraq,little known about the geneticcharacteristics of the causative agents. So this study was aimed to evaluate the genetic varietyoftwo IraqiLeishmaniatropicaisolates based on heat shock protein gene sequence 70 (HSP70) in comparison with universal isolates recorded sequences data. After amplification and sequencing of HSP70 gene, the obtained results were alignment along with homologous Leishmania sequences retrieved from NCBI by using BLAST. The analysis results showed presence of particular gene mutations including substitution and insertion at 93% identity with the HSP70 gene. So, indicate the prescient of numeric variation of local isolate and this is the first step toward future phylogenic study to understand genomic diversity across Leishmania tropica parasite.

Keywords: Cutaneousleishmaniasis, HSP70sen/HSP70ant, BLAST, PCR, Sequencing, Baghdad.

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I. Introduction

Leishmaniasis is one of the neglected infectious diseases causes serious health concern globally [1]. The clinical and epidemiological characteristics, response to treatment and prognosis, can vary depending on specie [2]. At present, 53 Leishmania spp. are known and at least 21 of them are pathogenic to humans [3]. Although the different Leishmania species are morphologically very similar, they cause many clinical forms including cutaneous (CL), Mucocutaneous (MCL), and visceral leishmaniasis (VL) [4]. Cutaneous and visceral, are found in Iraq, with a population of nearly 32 million, where 23% are living below the national poverty line, has seen much strife and struggle in the past 25 years. Cutaneous leishmaniasis, widely spread specially in the central region of the country [5]. The direct parasitological methods for detection the parasite had certain limitations, so indirect ways were designed, most of them based on the detection of parasite's DNA[3]. Since long years the advance of DNA amplification through PCR has facilitated the improvement of fast and sensitive methods able for molecular typing of Leishmania in variant biological samples. Several PCR assays for the combined detection and differentiation of parasites exist, including species-specific PCR [6, 7]. Species discrimination generally involves the following methods: direct sequencing of aPCR product, application of SSCP [8], use of species-specific restriction sites via RFLP analysis [9, 10], PCR fingerprinting [11], RAPD [12], or HRM [13]. Of these techniques, only PCR-RFLP and sequencing analysis are appropriate for the determination of all Leishmania sp. [4]. A more informative method is the sequencing analysis of the amplicons. The subsequent identification of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) or comparison of the obtained sequence with available reference sequences allows for species determination followed by evolutionary relationships analysis among the sequenced isolates. In comparative sequence analysis, it is crucial to select appropriate reference sequences and can be adopted to detect different species that belong to the same genus [14].

Sequencing of specific gene is an important task within bioinformatics, itbased on the alignments between numerousDNA sequences. One of the main goal of sequence alignment is the determination of homologous gene regions. In addition, significant important of mutation detection to access forvirulence genetic progress and useful in preventive management. So this study was aimed to determine mutation occurred on two Iraqi *Leishmania tropicaHSP*70 gene in compare with universal recorded sequences based on BLAST.

II. Materials And Methods

2.1 Leishmania isolates used in this study

Two *Leishmania tropica* isolates that used in this study were kindly provided by Biology Department/ College of Science/University of Baghdad.

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2.2 Cultivation of isolate

Procyclic promastigotes were cultivated in M199 medium supplemented with 10% HIFBS and 1% streptomycin/penicillin (Pen/Strep) then incubated at 26°C for 3 days for obtaining massive culture [15].

2.3 DNA extraction

DNA extraction from cultures of the parasite was made using the QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Then DNA was stored at -20° C until use.

2.4 Oligonucleotide sequence

The primer pair HSP70sen/HSP70ant (table 1) targeting HSP70 gene (alpha DNA/Canada).

Table1: Primers used to detect LeishmaniaHSP70 gene:

Oligonucleotide	Sequence	Reference
	5′GACGGTGCCTGCCTACTTCAA 3′	
HSP70sen/HSP70ant	5' CCGCCCATGCTCTGGTACATC 3'	[16]

2.5 PCR amplification

PCR amplification mixture which used for detection of each gene was carried out in 25 μ l volume includes GoTaq® Green Master Mix, 2X (12.5 μ l), 3 μ l of 25 ng DNA template, 1 μ l (1 Mm) of each forwarded and reversed primers and 7.5 μ l of nuclease free water to complete the amplification mixture to 25 μ l. Amplification was performed in a thermal cycler (Eppendorf®) programmed for 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 1 min, annealing at 61°Cfor 1 min, and extension at 72°C for 2 min, unprecedented by an initial denaturation of 2 min at 94°C. Final extension was for 3 min at 72°C.

2.6 Gel electrophoresis

PCR product was examined on agarose gel to confirm that there is a specific product with the desired size. The product was electrophoresed on 1% agarose gel containing Ethidium bromide (0.5 mg/ml) in Tris-Acetate-EDTA buffer (TAE buffer) and photographed under UV illumination.

2.7 Sequencing and Sequence Alignment

PCR product plus primer was labeled and sent to Macrogen Company in Korea to preform sanger sequencing by using AB13730XL, automated DNA sequencer. The result analyzed by BLAST website on NCBI.

III. Results and Discussion

The standard PCR was employed to detect *LeishmaniatropicaHSP*70 gene. The products were examined by gel electrophoresis in order to identify successful amplification of gene. The result indicate the ability of hsp70sen/hsp70ant primer pair for specifically amplified *HSP*70 gene of ~1422 bp, figure (1)

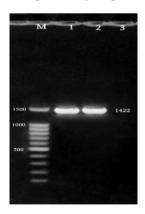


Figure 1: Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR product of ~ 1211 bp of *HSP*70, M-100bp Ladder, Lane (1) first isolate, Lane (2) second isolate, and Lane (3) negative control sample (No DNA template).

The *HSP70* gene has been broadly used for taxonomic and phylogenetic studies of *Leishmania*. *HSP70* region has been found homology on chromosomes 26, 28, 30, and 35. These have been identified as suitable for PCR-RFLP diagnostics that does not need parasite culturing before amplification and so may become broadly used targets [3].

Heat-shock protein 70 gene has established to be suitable for identifying species of different geographical origins in new world and old world between numerous targets designated for *Leishmania* detection [17, 18]. In addition, previous study reported sensitivity of this primer for successful amplification in low DNA concentration of 230 pg/µl [19]

The *HSP*70 coding gene and further classes of this group like *HSP*20 and *HSP*23 can distinguish *Leishmania* subgenera, for example, *Leishmania*, *Viannia*, *Sauroleishmania*, and also species *L. donovani*, *L. major*, *L. tropica*, *L. guyanensis*, *L. braziliensis*, and *L. mexicana* as well as individual species [14, 20-22].

To study genetic diversity of Iraqi*Leishmaniatropica*isolates, theextracted sequences were alignment on BLAST.Initially, first and second isolate sequences were submitted into gene bank NCBI at accession number: LC328562.1 and LC328563.1 respectively.

Alignment for the above sequence was investigated against *Leishmania* complete genome by Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) on NCBI. The alignment result for both isolates revealed high matching with the universal strain (MHOM/KE/81/NLB_030B) sequence which is recorded on NCBI as *Leishmania tropica* species (accession number:FN395026.1) at 100% query cover of 93% identify and 0% gaps.

The variations between first studied isolates of *L. tropica* sequences and (MHOM/KE/81/NLB_030B) are listed in (table 2). The sequence analysis indicated the presence of DNA substitution mutations including both type which is transition and transversion. Transition replacement of purine base with another purine at the positions244, 325, 340, 355, 396, 432,583, 724, 895, 932, 935, 908, 951, 284, 721, 745, 774, 834, 852, 945,957, 4, 136, 667, 739, 751, 893, 915, and 942. In contrast, transversion was occurred due to replacement of a purine with a pyrimidine at the positions 58, 290, 842, 877, 904, 941, 943, 965, 19, 356, 402,649, 876, 76, 238, 241, 418,573, 637,661, 823, 856, 205, 550, 211, 280, 316, 894, 572, 858, 679, and 910.In addition to previous, insertion of G, C, A, G were transpired at positions917, 936, 953, 963 respectively. The alignment between our sample and original gene in the NCBI database was shown in Figure (2):

Type of mutation Nucleotide position Subject/ Quarry 58, 290, 842, 877, 904, 941, 943, 965 Substitution /Transversions G• **≯**G 19, 356, 402,649, 876. Substitution /Transversions 76, 238, 241, 418,573, 637,661, 823, 856 Substitution /Transversions **→**G Substitution /Transversions **→**C 205, 550 Substitution /Transversions Т• **→** C 211, 280, 316, 894 Substitution /Transversions ►A 572, 858. 679, 910, Substitution /Transversions C ►A 244, 325, 340, 355, 396, 432,583, 724, 895, 932, 935 Substitution /Transitions **→** C Substitution /Transitions **→** A 908, 951 G Substitution /Transitions **→**G 284, 721, 745, 774, 834, 852, 945, 957. Substitution /Transitions **→**T 4, 136, 667, 739, 751, 893, 915, 942. Insertion G, C, A, G 917, 936, 953, 963 respectively

Expect

Table 2: Genetic mutations of *Leishmania tropicaHSP*70 nitrogenous bases/ First isolate.

1.440.1 % /1	(500)	0.0	
1442 bits(1	1598)	0.0 908/975(93%) 4/975(0%) Plus/Plus	
Query	1	GGATGCCGGCACGATTGCGGGCCTGGAGGTGCTGCGCATCATCAACGAGCCGACGGCTGC	60
Sbjct	25	GGACGCCGGCACGATTGCTGGCCTGGAGGTGCTGCGCATCATCAACGAGCCGACCGGCGC	84
Query	61	GGCCATCGCGTACGGGCTGGACAAGGGCGACGACGGCAAGGAGCGCAACGTGCTGATCTT	120
Sbjct	85	GGCCATCGCGTACGGCCTGGACAAGGGCGACGACGGCAAGGAGCGCAACGTGCTGATCTT	144
Query	121	CGACCTTGGCGGCGGTACGTTCGATGTGACGCTGCTGACGATCGACGGCGGCATCTTCGA	180
Sbjct	145	CGACCTTGGCGGCGCACGTTCGATGTGACGCTGCTGACGATCGACGGCGGCATCTTCGA	204
Query	181	${\tt GGTGAAGGCGACGACGGCGACACCCACCTCGGCGGCGAGGACTTCGACAACCGCCTGGT}$	240
Sbjct	205	GGTGAAGGCGAACGGCGACACACACTTGGCGGCGAGGACTTCGACAAACCGCCTCGT	264
Query	241	${\tt GACCTTCTTCACCGAGGAGTTCAAGCGCAAGAACAAGGGCCAAGGACCTGTCGTCGAGCCA}$	300
Sbjct	265	CACGTTCTTCACCGAGGAGTTCAAGCGCCAAGAACAAGGGTAAGAACCTGGCGTCGAGCCA	324

Identities

Score

Strand

Gaps

Query	301	CCGCGCGCTGCGCCTGCGCACCGCTGCGCACGCCCAAGCGCAAGCGCACGCTGTCCGCCGC	360
Sbjct	325	CCGCGCGCTGCGCCGTCTGCGCACGCGTGCGAGCGCGCAAGCGCACGCTGTCCGC	384
Query	361	GACGCAGGCGACGATCGAGATCGACGCGCTGTTCGACAACGTGGACTTCCAGGCCACGAT	420
Sbjct	385	GACGCAGGCGACGATCGAGATCGACGCGCTGTTCGAGAACGTTGACTTCCAGGCCACCAT	444
Query	421	CACGCGCGCGCGCTTCGAGGAGCTGTGCGGCGACCTGTTCCGCAGCACGATCCAGCCGGT	480
Sbjct	445	CACGCGCGCGCGCTTCGAGGAGCTGTGCGGCGACCTGTTCCGCAGCACGATCCAGCCGGT	504
Query	481	GGAGCGCGTGCTGCAGGACGCGAAGATGGACAAGCGCTCCGTGCACGACGTCGTGCTGCT	540
Sbjct	505	GGAGCGCGTGCTGCAGGACGCGAAGATGGACAAGCGCTCCGTGCACGACGTGGTGCTGGT	564
Query	541	GGGCGGGTCCACGCGCATCCCGAAGGTGCAGAGCCTGGTGTCCGACTTCTTCGGCGGCAA	600
Sbjct	565	GGGCGGGTCAACGCGCATCCCGAAGGTGCAGTCCCTCGTGTCGGACTTCTTCGGCGGCAA	624
Query	601	GGAGCTGAACAAGAGCATCAACCCCGACGAGGCTGTGGCGTACGGCGCGGCGGTGCAGGC	660
Sbjct	625	GGAGCTGAACAAGAGCATCAACCCCGACGAGGCTGTCGCGTACGGCGCTGCGGTGCAGGC	684
Query	661	GTTCATTCTGACGGCCGAAAGAGCAAGCAGACGGAGGGCCTGCTGCTGCTGGACGTGAC	720
Sbjct	685	CTTCATCCTGACGGCCGCAAGAGCAAGCAGACGGAGGGCCTGCTGCTGCTGGACGTGAC	744
Query	721	GCCCCTGACGCTGGGCATTGAGACGGCCGGTGGCGTGATGACGGCGCTGATCAGGCGCAA	780
Sbjct	745	ACCGCTGACGCTGGGCATCGAGACAGCCGGCGCGCTGATGACGGCGCTGATCAAGCGCAA	804
Query	781	CACGACGATCCCGACCAAGAAGAGCCAGATCTTCTCGACGTAGGCGGACAACCGGCCCGG	840
Sbjct	805	CACGACGATCCCGACCAAGAAGAGCCAGATCTTCTCGACGTACGCGGACAACCAGCCCGG	864
Query	841	CTTGCACATCCGGGTGTACGAGGGCGAGCGCGCAAGTACGAAGGACTGCCACTCCCTGGG	900
Sbjct	865	CGTGCACATCCAGGTCTTCGAGGGCGAGCGCGCGATGACGAAGGACTGCCACCTGCTGGG	924
Query	901	${\tt CACTTTCAAACTGTTCGGGCATCCCGCCGGCCCCCCCGCGTTTTGCCGCAAAATCGGGGT}$	960
Sbjct	925	CACGTTCGACCTGTCC-GGCATCCCGCCGGCGCCG-CGCGGCGTACCGCAGA-TCGAGGT	981
Query	961	GAGCTTTCGACCTGG 975	
Sbjct	982		

Figure 2: Alignment of the <u>first</u> isolate with *Leishmania tropicaHSP*70 gene with the universal strain MHOM/KE/81/NLB_030B Sequence ID: <u>FN395026.1</u>. **Query:** the target (studied) nucleotide sequence. **Subject:** nucleotide sequences within a database.

The variations between second studied isolates of L. tropica sequences (MHOM/KE/81/NLB_030B) are listed in (table 3). The sequence analysis indicated the presence of DNA substitution mutations including both types which is transition and transversion. Transition was determined at the positions 242, 248, 329, 344,359, 401, 436,587, 728, 1004, 1029, 1062, 695, 773, 953, 1011, 1069, 1080, 1102, 3, 282, 725, 749, 856, 974, 980, 1035, 1087, 8, 140, 671,743, 755, 886, and 944. In contrast Transversions was determined at the positions 62, 294, 23, 407, 653, 1066, 80, 245, 422, 577, 641, 665, 860, 965, 1020, 1048, 209, 554, 1018, 1046, 1071, 1081, 215, 284, 320, 360, 887, 576, 683, 1054, and 1092. Also, insertion of A, G, T, G, T, A, G were occur at positions 1005, 1021, 1064, 1075, 1083, 1085, and 1093 respectively. The alignment between second isolate and original gene at NCBI database was shown in Figure (3):

Table 3: Genetic mutations of *Leishmania tropicaHSP*70 nitrogenous bases/ First isolate.

Type of mutation	Nucleotide Subject/ Ouarry	position
Substitution /Transversions	G → T	62, 294
Substitution /Transversions	T → G	23, 407, 653, 1066
Substitution /Transversions	$C \longrightarrow G$	80, 245, 422, 577, 641, 665, 860, 965, 1020, 1048
Substitution /Transversions	$A \longrightarrow C$	209, 554, 1018, 1046, 1071, 1081
Substitution /Transversions	$T \longrightarrow C$	215, 284, 320, 360, 887
Substitution /Transversions	$T \longrightarrow A$	576
Substitution /Transversions	C → A	683, 1054
Substitution /Transversions	A → T	1092
Substitution /Transitions	$G \longrightarrow C$	242, 248, 329, 344,359, 401, 436,587, 728, 1004, 1029, 1062
Substitution /Transitions	$G \longrightarrow A$	695, 773, 953, 1011, 1069, 1080, 1102
Substitution /Transitions	A → G	3, 282, 725, 749, 856, 974, 980, 1035, 1087
Substitution /Transitions	$C \longrightarrow T$	8, 140, 671,743, 755, 886, 944
Insertion	A, G, T, G, T, A, G	1005, 1021, 1064, 1075, 1083, 1085, 1093 respectively

Identities

Gaps

Strand

Expect

Score

			•		•		
	1605 t	oits(869)	0.0	1029/1107(93%)	7/1107(0%)	Plus/Plus	
Q	uery	1	CGGAGGATGCCGGCACGATT				60
s	bjct	21	CGAAGGACGCCGGCACGATT	GCTGGCCTGGAGGTGCTG	CGCATCATCAACGAG	CCGACGG	80
Q	uery	61	CTGCGGCCATCGCGTACGGG				120
s	bjct	81	CGGCGGCCATCGCGTACGGC	CTGGACAAGGGCGACGAC	GGCAAGGAGCGCAAC	GTGCTGA	140
Q	uery	121	TCTTCGACCTTGGCGGCGGT				180
s	bjct	141	TCTTCGACCTTGGCGGCGGC				200
Q	uery	181	TCGAGGTGAAGGCGACGAAC				240
s	bjct	201	TCGAGGTGAAGGCGACGAAC				260
Q	uery	241	TGGTGACCTTCTTCACCGAG				300
s	bjct	261	TCGTCACGTTCTTCACCGAG				320
Q	uery	301	GCCACCGCGCGCTGCGCCGC				360
S	bjct	321	GCCACCGCGCGCTGCGCCGT				380
Q	uery	361	CCGCGACGCAGGCGACGATC				420
S	bjct	381	CCGCGACGCAGGCGACGATC				440
Q	uery	421	CGATCACGCGCGCGCGCTTC				480
s	bjct	441	CCATCACGCGCGCGCGCTTC				500
Q	uery	481	CGGTGGAGCGCGTGCTGCAG				540
S	bjct	501	CGGTGGAGCGCGTGCTGCAG				560
Q	uery	541	TGGTGGGCGGGTCCACGCGC				600
s	bjct	561	TGGTGGGCGGGTCAACGCGC				620
Q	uery	601	GCAAGGAGCTGAACAAGAGC				660
s	bjct	621	GCAAGGAGCTGAACAAGAGC				680

681

661

Query

Sbjct

 ${\tt AGGCGTTCATTCTGACGGGCGGAAAGAGCAAGCAAACGGAGGGCCTGCTGCTGCTGGACG}$

720

740

Query	721	TGACGCCCCTTACGCTGGGCATTGAGACGGCCGGTGGCGTGATGACGGCGCTAATCAAGC	780
Sbjct	741	TGACACCGCTGACGCTGGGCATCGAGACAGCCGGCGGCGTGATGACGGCGCTGATCAAGC	800
Query	781	GCAACACGACGATCCCGACCAAGAAGAGCCAGATCTTCTCGACGTACGCGGACAACCAGC	840
Sbjct	801	GCAACACGACGATCCCGACCAAGAAGAGCCAGATCTTCTCGACGTACGCGGACAACCAGC	860
Query	841	CCGGCGTGCACATCCGGGTGTACGAGGGCGAGGGCGCGCGATGACGAAGGACTGCCACTCGC	900
Sbjct	861	CCGGCGTGCACATCCAGGTCTTCGAGGGCGAGGCGCGCGATGACGAAGGACTGCCACCTGC	920
Query	901	TGGGCACGTTCGACCTGTCCGGCATCCCGCCGGCGCGCGC	960
Sbjct	921	TGGGCACGTTCGACCTGTCCGGCATCCCGCCGCGCGCGCG	980
Query	961	TGACCTTCGACCTGGACGCGAACGGCATCCTGAACGTGTCCGCCAGAAGAAAAGGGCCCG	1020
Sbjct	981	TGACGTTCGACCTGGACGCAAACGGCATCCTGAACGTGTCCGCG-GAGGAGAAGGGCACC	1039
Query	1021	GGGCAAGCCCAACCGGATCACCATCCCGAAAGAAAAGGGCCCGTCGGAACCAGGGACGAA	1080
Sbjct	1040	-GGCAAGCGCAACCAGATCACCAACGACAAGGGCCGG-CTGAGCAAGG-ACGAG	1096
Query	1081	CTTCAGGGCGCTGTGGTGAACAACGCG 1107	
Sbjct	1097	AT-C-GAGCGCA-TGGTGAACGACGCG 1120	

Figure 3: Alignment of the <u>second</u> isolate with *Leishmania tropicaHSP*70 gene with the universal strain MHOM/KE/81/NLB_030B Sequence ID: <u>FN395026.1</u>. **Query:** the target (studied) nucleotide sequence. **Subject:** nucleotide sequences within a database.

The alteration of nitrogen nucleotides results may be due to several reasons, comprising the geographical area differences that led to changes of genetic material of the Iraqi isolates, as a consequence of adaptation or mutations. The sequence analysis of the PCR amplicons is a more informative method. The subsequent identification of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) or comparison of the obtained sequence with available reference sequences allows species identification and tracking of evolutionary relationships among the sequenced isolates [23].

The 70 kDa heat-shock protein (*HSP*70) is conserved across prokaryotes and eukaryotes as well as its encoding gene. It has been applied in phylogenetic studies of different parasites. A previous survey [24] determined sequences and phylogenetic analysis proved that 52 *HSP*70 sequences representing 17 species commonly causing leishmaniasis both in the New and Old World. The genus *Leishmania* formed a monophyletic group with three distinct subgenera *L.* (*Leishmania*), *L.* (*Viannia*), and *L.* (*Sauroleishmania*). Another study by [14]describes*Leishmania* species diagnosis of clinical samples on the basis of partial sequencing of the heat-shock protein 70 gene (*HSP*70) dispensing classical parasite isolation. *LeishmaniaHSP*70 sequences were determined on the basis of a single PCR amplicons. The final alignment contained 207 sequences from 42 *Leishmania*-endemic countries, representing 18 species of which 15 are causing human leishmaniasis.

IV. Conclusion

This study determined sequence variants that occur in Leishmania tropica/ HSP70 gene as a result of genetic mutation and/or single nucleotides polymorphism. Sequencing analysis of genes in target provides an inclusive and controllable resource to target efforts in identifying parasite factors that influence infection. Conversely, factors that are unique to the Leishmania genus but common to all species may be used as prospective treatment purpose or vaccine applicants.

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