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Molecular characterization of multidrug pneumococcal clones colonizing healthy children in Mérida, Venezuela

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Highlights:

A limited diversity on *pbp*-RFLP profile was found within each pneumococcal clone.

Resistance profiles of non-beta-lactam antibiotics and the presence of different transposons showed a clear genetic diversity in each clonal group.

NCC1 pneumococci showed a diversity of MLST allelic combinations and *pbp*-RFLP profiles.

Type 1 pilus (*rrgC* gene) was common but Islet of type 2 pilus was rare in MDR pneumococci.

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