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<AT>Susceptibility profiles of bacteria causing urinary tract infection in Southern Tunisia

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<ABS-HEAD>Highlights ► Epidemiological profile and the antibiotic resistance of bacteria responsible of urinary infections in the south west of Tunisia. ► Gram negative bacteria and especially enterobacterial germs are the dominating identified organisms, particularly from outpatients. ► Identification of extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBLE), which represent 3.61% of the enterobacterial germs and 3.41% of community-ESBLE. ► The excessive use of antibiotics, in hospitals as in community, is responsible of the appearance of bacterial resistance.

<ABS-HEAD>Abstract

<ABS-P><ST>Objectives</ST> The aim of this study was to determine the epidemiological profile and the antibiotic resistance of bacteria responsible for urinary infections diagnosed in the department of microbiology of the regional hospital Houcine Bouzaeine (Gafsa) in the south west of Tunisia.

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<ABS-P><ST>Methods</ST> All the cytobacteriological urine samples analyzed from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016 were included in the study. The adopted criteria to define urinary infection were: leukocyturia $> 10^4$ /ml and bacteriuria $> 10^5$ CFU/ml.

<ABS-P><ST>Results</ST> Among 12678 urine samples, 2093 (16.5%) met the criteria of urinary tract infection. The majority of the infections came from outpatients (92.06%). Gram negative bacteria were the dominating identified organisms (1980/2093 (94.6%)) while the Gram positive bacteria represented only 5.4% (113/2093). The most frequently identified organisms were *Enterobacteriaceae* (1938/2093 (92.6%)) with 1404 *Escherichia coli* (67%) and 268 *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (12.8%). Extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing

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