
Title

From Proteome to Potential Drugs: Integration of Subtractive Proteomics and Ensemble Docking for Drug Repurposing against Pseudomonas aeruginosa RND Superfamily Proteins

Abstract

Pseudomonas aeruginosa (*P. aeruginosa*) poses a significant threat as a nosocomial pathogen due to its robust resistance mechanisms and virulence factors. This study integrates subtractive proteomics and ensemble docking to identify and characterize essential proteins in *P. aeruginosa*, aiming to discover therapeutic targets and repurpose commercial existing drugs. Using subtractive proteomics, we refined the dataset to discard redundant proteins and minimize potential cross-interactions with human proteins and the microbiome proteins. We identified 12 key proteins, including a histidine kinase and members of the RND efflux pump family, known for their roles in antibiotic resistance, virulence, and antigenicity. Predictive modeling of the three-dimensional structures of these RND proteins and subsequent molecular ensemble-docking simulations led to the identification of MK-3207, R-428, and Suramin as promising inhibitor candidates. These compounds demonstrated high binding affinities and effective inhibition across multiple metrics. Further refinement using non-covalent interaction index methods provided deeper insights into the electronic effects in protein-ligand interactions, with Suramin exhibiting superior binding energies, suggesting its broad-spectrum inhibitory potential. Our findings confirm the critical role of RND efflux pumps in antibiotic resistance and suggest that MK-3207, R-428, and Suramin could be effectively repurposed to target these proteins. This approach highlights the potential of drug repurposing as a viable strategy to combat *P. aeruginosa* infections. © 2024 by the authors.

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