**Eggerthella lenta** Bacteremia and Sepsis Due to Right-sided Diverticulitis

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**Background**

- *Eggerthella lenta* is an anaerobic, Gram-positive bacillus that is part of the normal gastrointestinal microbiome and is a rare cause of bacteremia.
- There are 25 case reports detailing *Eggerthella lenta* bacteremia, with one detailing sepsis due to diverticulitis treated with ceftriaxone and metronidazole.
- Monotherapy with ceftriaxone or piperacillin-tazobactam is associated with increased mortality.
- Anaerobic bacteria susceptibility occurs in specialized labs. This bacterium is susceptible to ampicillin-sulbactam, carbapenems, and metronidazole.

**Case Presentation**

- 86-year-old male with a history of hypertension, GERD, and osteoporosis presented to the hospital with right-sided abdominal pain for three days.
- He was febrile, tachycardic, and tender in lower right quadrant.
- Labs were significant for leukocytosis and lactic acidosis.
- CT abdomen/pelvis revealed fat stranding surrounding diverticula at the ileocolic junction and a 3.5 cm mass in pancreatic tail.
- He was given intravenous fluids and empiric piperacillin-tazobactam.
- EGD-EUS was done to biopsy the pancreatic mass revealing a well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor.
- Antibiotics were switched to ertapenem, and the patient was discharged home to complete a ten-day course.

**Key Point**

- *Eggerthella lenta* is a rare cause of bacteremia not typically tested for susceptibility in local hospitals, and monotherapy with ceftriaxone or piperacillin-tazobactam confers high mortality.

**Timeline**

- **Day 1**: Gram-negative rods in 1 of 2 bottles. The patient developed diarrhea. Antibiotics were deescalated to ceftriaxone.
- **Day 4**: Gram-positive rods were growing in 1 of 2 bottles while the other bacteria speciated to *Escherichia coli*.
- **Day 5**: *Eggerthella lenta* speciated as the second organism.

**Imaging**

**Figure 1**: Gram stain of *Eggerthella lenta*

**Figure 2**: CT abdomen/pelvis w/o contrast showing fat stranding around the ileocolic junction concerning for diverticulitis

**Conclusion**

- *Eggerthella lenta* sepsis is uncommon and not a typical bacterium that causes bacteremia.
- We typically think to empirically use piperacillin-tazobactam for abdominal infections but careful consideration into choice of antimicrobial is important as monotherapy for this bacterium is associated with high mortality.

**References**