Eggerthella lenta Bacteremia and Sepsis Due to Right-sided Diverticulitis

Hac-Tu Jacqueline Chung, DO; Luisa Barrueto, DO; Allison Ferris, MD
Florida Atlantic University Internal Medicine Residency, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Boca Raton Regional Hospital – Boca Raton, FL

FAU MEDICINE
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Background

- *Eggerthella lenta* is an anaerobic, Gram-positive bacillus that is part of the normal gastrointestinal microbiome and is a rare cause of bacteremia.[1]
- There are 25 case reports detailing *Eggerthella lenta* bacteremia, with one detailing sepsis due to diverticulitis treated with ceftriaxone and metronidazole.[2]
- Monotherapy with ceftriaxone or piperacillin-tazobactam is associated with increased mortality.[3]
- Anaerobic bacteria susceptibility occurs in specialized labs.[2] This bacterium is susceptible to ampicillin-sulbactam, carbapenems, and metronidazole. [1]

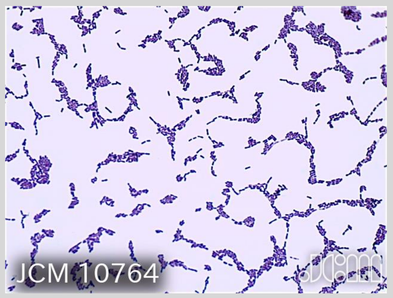

Figure 1: Gram stain of *Eggerthella lenta*

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 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

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