**Corynebacterium kutscheri** Infection of Skin and Soft Tissue following Rat Bite

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**Corynebacterium kutscheri** is a common bacterium isolated from the oral cavity of healthy mice and rats. We report the first well-documented case of *C. kutscheri* human infection which followed a rat bite. The microorganism was identified by conventional biochemical tests and confirmed by 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis.

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**CASE REPORT**

A 7-month-old infant girl was admitted to the hospital with an infected right middle finger. Apart from premature birth at 32 weeks gestation, the patient had no other medical illness. Twelve days prior to admission, the patient had been bitten on the right hand by a rat. Following the bite, the patient developed swelling and erythema of the finger despite daily wound cleansing with saline. The patient initially presented to the emergency department, where an incision and drainage were performed; frank pus was noted, and a swab sent for microscopy and culture. The patient was treated with 200 mg amoxicillin–28.5 mg clavulanic acid orally twice a day, but purulent discharge and cellulitis persisted. The patient underwent deep debridement of the right middle finger, and no discrete collections were identified. The patient received intravenous doses of 400 mg ceftriaxone daily and 65 mg metronidazole three times a day for 5 days, followed by 160 mg amoxicillin–22.8 mg clavulanic acid orally twice a day for 15 days and made a full clinical recovery.

The Gram stain of the initial swab from the incision and drainage revealed polymorphonuclear leukocytes, but no organisms were seen. Pure growth of slightly irregular gram-positive bacilli was noted on horse blood agar and chocolate agar after 24 h at 35°C in aerobic conditions and also when positive bacilli was noted on horse blood agar and chocolate ganisms were seen. Pure growth of slightly irregular gram-positi

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recent rat bite. *C. kutscheri* was identified using commercially available identification systems, and the identification was confirmed by 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Rat bite fever caused by *Streptobacillus moniliformis* or *Spirillum minus* (2) is well described, and *C. kutscheri* should be considered as another causative microorganism in the spectrum of rat bite-associated bacterial disease in humans.

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The authors report no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES