Letters to the Editor

Urinary Tract Infection Caused by Eikenella corrodens

To date, Eikenella corrodens, a fastidious, gram-negative rod, has not been recognized as a causative agent of urinary tract infections. Until now the organism has been isolated from infective endocarditis, abdominal, joint, and bone infections (3, 7), human bite wounds (9), genital ulcers after traumatic orogenital contact (5, 6), and other sites (3, 7, 10). E. corrodens is part of the human oropharyngeal and probably intestinal flora (8, 10).

In spring 2006, we encountered the case of an 83-year-old female with a urinary tract infection due to E. corrodens. The patient was referred to the Hospital of Surses (Switzerland) with general malaise, abdominal pain, burning during micturition, and pollakiuria. Chronic lymphatic leukemia had been diagnosed in 2003. Prior to admission, the patient had a 2-year history of recurrent urinary tract infections. However, no infective agent could be isolated from her urine. There was also a history of recurrent anal prolapse and sigmoidal diverticulitis. Analysis of catheterized spot urine showed an alkaline pH of 9.0, no nitrite, protein of 1 g/liter, more than 500 leukocytes per μl, and large quantities of erythrocytes and bacteria.

On cystine-lactose-electrolyte-deficient agar (UrinAX CL/MCE; AxonLab AG, Baden, Switzerland) hypochlorite-smelling quantities of erythrocytes and bacteria. A total of 28 colonies (105 CFU/ml) were detected, together with a few colony Eikenella corrodens. The latter were isolated from the patient’s urinary tract infection: (i) there were clinical and laboratory signs of lower urinary tract infection, (ii) E. corrodens was the prevailing microorganism recovered from an appropriate urine specimen, (iii) anal prolapse can be considered a risk factor for colonization and infection of the urinary tract by an intestinal commensal, and (iv) there was a complete clinical and bacteriological recovery from the urinary tract infection after appropriate antibiotic therapy.

This report demonstrates that E. corrodens is able to cause urinary tract infections, especially when additional risk factors are present.

REFERENCES


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