The diagnosis of bacteremia due to Weissella confusa was confirmed by 16S rRNA gene sequencing. The organism, based on the production of alpha-hemolysis, the Gram stain, and the catalase-negative reaction, was preliminarily reported as “Lactobacillus-like, identification to follow.” Repeat blood cultures were subsequently negative after removal of the peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) and therapy switch from vancomycin to daptomycin. We believe that her bacteremia was related to the indwelling PICC, total parenteral nutrition (TPN) dependency, and the history of altered gut flora with multiple abdominal surgeries.

W. confusa is a nonmotile Gram-positive, alpha-hemolytic, catalase-negative coccobacillus that grows at 25, 35, and 42°C and is positive for esculin hydrolysis and arginine deamination (1). Originally identified as Lactobacillus confusus, the organism was reclassified into a novel genus in 1993 along with other lactobacilli and Leuconostoc paramesenteroides (2). Thus, this organism is frequently confused with Lactobacillus- or Leuconostoc-like organisms, which are inherently vancomycin resistant and often considered contaminants (3, 4). W. confusa has been isolated from sugar cane, carrot juice, milk, fermented cereals, and vegetables (5). Though an exceedingly rare human pathogen and usually nonfatal, W. confusa has been demonstrated to cause clinical disease such as abscess, bacteremia, prosthetic joint infection, and infective endocarditis (4, 6, 7, 8).

Immunocompromised states, prior exposure to vancomycin, altered gut flora, recent gastrointestinal procedures, and TPN dependency are all suspected to be risk factors for the development of altered gut flora, recent gastrointestinal procedures, and TPN dependency, and the history of altered gut flora with multiple abdominal surgeries.


Editor: P. Bourbeau
Address correspondence to Joan-Miquel Balada-Llasat, joan-miquel.balada-llasat@osumc.edu.
Copyright © 2015, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved. doi:10.1128/JCM.00956-13