



PERIPHERAL ASYMMETRIC GANGRENE CAUSED BY STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS SEPTICAEMIA

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ABSTRACT: *Sepsis is a common condition among older patients and is a common cause of acute referral to the medical ward. In this case report, an 80-year old man was diagnosed with Staphylococcus aureus septicaemia, originating from a hip joint empyema. The septicaemia resulted in disseminated intravascular coagulation leading to gangrene of fingers on his hand resulting into amputation. This case highlights a severe complication associated with septicaemia.*

KEYWORDS: Gangrene, Hip Joint Empyema, Septicaemia, Staphylococcus Aureus

INTRODUCTION

Patients being referred to the medical ward with septicaemia is seen every day at larger university hospitals. Often, patients are elderly and suffer from one or more comorbidities. However, symptoms from many organ systems may result from the same etiology, as illustrated in this case report.

Case Report

An 80-year old man was referred to the medical ward under the diagnosis septic shock. For several years, the man had been diagnosed with type-2 diabetes without complications. For a couple of months, he had been complaining of pain in his left hip joint, which had been suspected to be hip joint arthrosis.

At the time of referral, the physicians now suspected hip joint empyema; a puncture from the left hip was taken as well as samples for blood cultures, and systemic antibiotics with intravenous ampicillin and sulbactam were prescribed. A purulent appearing material was observed from the hip puncture and an open resection of the left hip joint was necessary. Results from the blood samples and hip puncture showed a growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* and therefore Fosfomycin was added to the antibiotic treatment.

One week after the patient had been referred to the medical ward, a bluish discoloration from the index to the pinky fingers on the patient's right hand was observed, which during one week developed into a dry necrosis **Figure 1**. The fingers were amputated at the proximal phalangeal bone.

DISCUSSION

Peripheral gangrene is a complication, which can be associated with many different medical conditions (1-3). Disseminated intravascular coagulation secondary to sepsis can lead to peripheral gangrene (4-5) as seen in the presented patient case report.



Figure 1: Gangrene from the index to the pinky fingers on the right hand in a patient suffering from *Staphylococcus aureus* septicaemia. A few days after the photo was taken, the fingers were amputated.

Conflicts of Interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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