SURFERS: BEWARE NOT ONLY OF SHARKS

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BACKGROUND

- ❖ *Shewanella* spp. are saprophytic bacteria that are part of the marine microflora in warm climates and are rarely pathogenic.
- ❖ However, *Shewanella* spp. infections are being increasingly reported and being implicated as an important and developing cause of maritime-associated disease.

CASE REPORT

- ❖ A previously healthy, fully immunized 9 year-old boy with fever and a swollen right thigh came to the emergency room. He otherwise had no significant medical history.
- ❖ He had injured his right leg 4 days earlier when he was surfing. He came to a local hospital emergency room where the wound was cleaned and sutured. The patient was discharged home with a diagnosis of minor wound and local dressings were performed the following two days but local heat and swelling over his right thigh soon developed followed by fever and bad general condition. He received cefuroxime two more days but finally he came again to a tertiary hospital.
- ❖ Upon admission, he was acutely ill, His body temperature was 39, and blood pressure 113/65. Physical examination revealed an extremely swollen right thigh with edematous dark red to purple-colored skin, and some hemorrhagic bullae on the soft tissue. Under the impression of necrotizing fasciitis and septic shock parenteral cefepime and amikacine were empirical administered after sampling blood for culture and an emergency operation was performed.
- ❖ The surgical procedure included fasciotomy and extensive debridement of the devitalized soft tissue. A vacuum and bandage was performed. The patient had a favourable clinical response.
- ❖ Cultures of blood and exercises necrotic tissue sampled during the operation both yielded Gram-negative rods, which were identified as *S putrefaciens* by ID 32 GN (bioMerieux,Vitek,Inc .Hazelwood,MO,USA)

A

B

C

D

A Shewanella culture

B Infection with necrotic plaque after mechanical suturing performed at different facility

C Result after surgical debridement

D FavoUable outcome

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ *Shewanella* species normally exist in the marine environment and tend to affect immunocompromised patients or elderly with cutaneous ulcer. But given the possible catastrophic consequences, without a rapid abordaje, education on the prevention of shewanella soft tissue infections may be of importance.