Catheter Associated Blood Stream Infection Related to *Chryseobacterium indologenes* in a Case with Acute Renal Failure

Umut Safiye Say Coskun^{*1}, Ayse Alici¹, Bahise Cagla Taskin Dalgic¹, Aytekin Firtina¹, Suheyla Uzun² and Meryem Cetin¹

¹Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Microbiology, Turkey

²Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Turkey

***Corresponding author:** Umut Safiye Say Coskun, Gaziosmanpaşa University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Microbiology, Tokat, Turkey

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Abstract

Chryseobacterium indologenes (*C.indologenes*) presence in soil, water, plants and can be detected in water systems, tap wetter and wet surfaces in the hospital environment because of its vitality in the chlorinated waters. *C.indologenes* is not involved in the human flora and rarely isolated as infectious agent. A 80 years old female patient, with known hypertension, who applied to hospital with complaint of nausea and vomiting was diagnosed as prerenal acute renal failure according to clinical and laboratory findings (TA: 75/ 50mmHg, urea: 85,06mg/dl, creatinine: 10.4mg/dl, pH: 7.22mmol/L, HC03: 16.3mmol/L, Na: 129mg/dl, K: 4.3mg/dl, Cl 93.1mg/dl.). Hemodialysis catheter was inserted due to hemodialysis requirement. It was seen that following hydration therapy, creatinine levels decreased. On the fifth day of hospitalization, the patient's fever was increased (38.5 °C) and the CRP value was 82.14mg/L. After the blood culture samples were taken, ceftriaxone and clindamycin were used as empirical treatment. The isolate was identified from blood samples as *C. indologenes* with both conventional methods (Gram strain, oxidase, indole, lactose, citrate, urease) and Microscan (Beckman Coulter, USA) automated system. Antibiotic susceptibilities were determined by both disk diffusion method and Microscan (Beckman Coulter, USA) automated system too. The isolate was found to be susceptible to ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, piperacillin tazobactam, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and resistant to cefotaxime, gentamicin, amikacin, tobramycin, ceftazidime, aztreonam, imipenem, meropenem, tetracycline, chloramphenicol. On the third day of antibiotic therapy, CRP (21.03 mg/L) started to decrease. During the follow- up, renal function was improved and fever control was provided. The patient was discharged on the 11th day after the treatment with clindamycin and ciprofloxacin. As a result, it should be noted, *C.indologenes* can be found in the hospital environment, may cause infections with intravenous catheter applications. So avoided unnecessary applications and infection control measures should be taken in this regard.

Introduction

Chryseobacterium indologenes (*C.indologenes*) formerly *Flavobacterium indologenes* is not generally known as infectious agents and are rarely isolated in human infection [1]. *C.indologenes* is found primarily in soil and water. The organism can survive in chlorinated water supplies, frequently colonizing taps and be reservoirs for infections in the hospital. Colonization of patients through contaminated medical devices involving solutions

such as respirators, intubation tubes, the intravenous catheter [2]. Previous studies have reported that *C.indologenes* can cause pneumonia, sepsis, and tracheobronchitis. *C.indologenes* is the primarily opportunistic pathogen in newborns and immunocompromised patients [3-6]. This report presents the case of a non-immunosuppressive patient developed *C. indologenes* related catheter-associated bloodstream infection, following acute renal failure treatment.

Case Presentation

Figure 1: A typical yellow-pigmented *C. indologenes* colony in blood agar medium.

An 80 years old female patient, with known hypertension, admitted to hospital with the complaint of nausea and vomiting was diagnosed as prerenal acute renal failure. It is detected that pulse rate was 88/min, the temperature was 36.8 °C, and blood pressure was 75/ 50mmHg. The laboratory data were urea: 85,06mg/dl, creatinine: 10.4mg/dl, pH: 7.22mmol/L, HCO₃: 16.3mmol/L, Na: 129mg/dl, K: 4.3mg/dl, Cl 93.1mg/dl. Hemodialysis catheter was inserted due to hemodialysis requirement. Following hydration therapy, creatinine levels decreased. On the fifth day of hospitalization, the patient's temperature was increased 38.5 °C and the C-reactive protein (CRP) value was 82.14mg/L. Two sets of blood culture samples were sent to the Microbiology Laboratory for investigation. After the blood culture samples were taken, ceftriaxone and clindamycin were used as empirical treatment. Cultures were processed with the BacT/ALERT System (BioMerieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France). Bacterial growth was revealed within 48 to 72 hours. Specimens were cultured in 5% Sheep blood agar (HiMedia, India), Eosin Methylene Blue agar (HiMedia, India) and Chocolate agar (HiMedia, India) and incubated at 37 °C for 24 hours. After incubation, yellow-pigmented colonies were observed in the blood agar (Figure 1). Oxidase and indole tests were positive and lactose, citrate and urease tests were negative. In addition, the Microscan Walkaway Plus (Beckman Coulter, USA) automated system was used to identify the microorganism. *C. indologenes* was identified as the causative agent. According to the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values, *C. indologenes* was found to be susceptible to ciprofloxacin (0.25mg/μl), levofloxacin (≤ 0,5mg/μl), piperacillin/tazobactam (≤8mg/μl) and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (≤ 1/19 mg/ μl), while it was shown to be resistant to, gentamicin (>8mg μl), amikacin (32mg/μl), tobramycin (>8mg μl), cefotaxime (> 16mg/μl), ceftazidime (> 16mg/μl), aztreonam (> 16mg/μl), imipenem (>8mg μl), meropenem (>8 mg μl) [7]. On the third day of antibiotic therapy, CRP (21.03mg / lt) started to decrease. During the treatment, renal function

was improved and fever control was provided. After the patient was treated with clindamycin and ciprofloxacin over eleven days, clinical improvement of the bloodstream infection was observed. The patient was discharged on the 11th day after the treatment.

Discussion

Opportunistic infections due to this organism, often arising from colonization of indwelling mechanical devices [8]. *C. indologenes* is of low pathogenicity. The production of biofilm on foreign materials may play an important role in the virulence of invasive infections caused by *C. indologenes* [9,10]. Risk factors of *C. indologenes* were hospitalization, malignancy and especially immunosuppression [1,3]. *C. indologenes* reported related tracheobronchitis in transplanted patient who take anti-tuberculosis treatment for six months [4]. Ceylan, et al. [3] observed a case of fatal *C. indologenes* septicemia developed in a newborn with hydrocephalus. Christakis et al. [11] indicated non-catheter-related bacteremia caused by *C. indologenes* in a patient with a solid tumor. They highlighted, although the majority of *C. indologenes* infections are linked to the use of indwelling devices. In the literature, *C. indologenes* appears to cause infection in immunosuppressed patients [3,4,11]. However, it has been reported that it may be an infectious agent in immunocompetent individuals. McKewa, et al. [5] reported case of severe sepsis from a 53 year old man with no underlying medical conditions was admitted with the septic shock one week after returning from hiking. They indicated the organism has the potential to be highly pathogenic. In this report, *C. indologenes* infection occurred due to intravenous catheter use during the treatment of acute renal failure in an immunocompetent patient in hospital.

Antimicrobial susceptibility data of *C. indologenes* is limited since this pathogen has been barely isolated from clinical specimens. The SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program conducted by using results from North America, Latin America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region detected that the most active agents against *C. indologenes* are the quinolones and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, followed by piperacillin-tazobactam. In addition, aminoglycosides, chloramphenicol, linezolid, and glycopeptides are not appropriate for treating infections due to this organism [12]. Also, *C. indologenes* strains are the natural reservoir of chromosomally linked metallo-β-lactamases [13]. In this report in accordance with previous studies quinolones, piperacillin tazobactam and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole seem the most susceptible antibiotics to *C. indologenes* infection. And the isolate was resistant to carbapenems. In conclusion, *C. indologenes* can cause infection not only in immunosuppressive patients but also in immunocompetent individuals. It should be noted, *C. indologenes* can be found in the hospital environment, may cause infections with intravenous catheter applications. So avoided unnecessary invasive applications and infection control measures should be taken in this regard.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors have no conflicts or interests to declare.

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Umut Safiye Say Coskun. Biomed J Sci & Tech Res

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