A Case Of Disseminated Melioidosis With Multiple Joint Septic Arthritis

Ooi E, Nagaretnam V, Chua WS
Orthopaedics, Hospital Duchess of Kent, 90000 Sandakan Sabah

INTRODUCTION:
Melioidosis is a tropical disease caused by Burkholderia pseudomallei. Musculoskeletal involvement in melioidosis are less common presentations. We present a case of septic arthritis caused by melioidosis with multiple joint involvement.

METHODS:
A previously healthy 17-year-old boy presented with a 2-week history of fever and 1-week history of right knee swelling and pain. Examination revealed a swollen, tender right knee with limited range of motion. Aspiration of knee joint revealed hemopurulent fluid. A diagnosis of right knee septic arthritis was made. The patient was started on IV cloxacillin and penicillin. He underwent emergency right knee arthrotomy washout. Post-surgery he still had persistent fever. Specimen from the surgery grew Burkholderia pseudomallei, sensitive to meropenam, imipenem, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and ceftazidime. Antibiotics was changed to IV ceftazidime.

RESULTS:
The patient showed clinical improvement after 1 month of IV meropenem. Blood cultures were also negative for melioidosis. His antibiotics were change to oral trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole for 6 months. During subsequent follow-up, he showed improvement in wound healing and limb function.

DISCUSSIONS:

The majority of melioidosis patients with septic arthritis have monoarthritis. In this case our patient presented with monoarthritis and had progressive involvement of other joints during admission. Initially, he was not responding to ceftazidime despite its sensitivity and improved after changing to meropenem.

CONCLUSION:
In patients with septic arthritis from melioidosis, multiple joint involvement should be suspected if patients do not improve despite arthrotomy washout and antibiotics. Multiple joint involvements might not be apparent during initial presentation.

REFERENCES: