

## FATAL INFECTION OF NECROTIZING FASCIITIS OF THE UPPER LIMB: A CASE REPORT

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**Introduction:** Necrotizing fasciitis is a rapidly progressive, potentially lethal bacterial infection involving the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and superficial fascia. The incidence of this type of infection has been estimated to be around 4 per million of the population and it has increased over the last decade. Necrotizing fasciitis affecting the upper and lower extremities found a 22% mortality rate and a 22% rate of amputation of extremities with necrotizing fasciitis.

**Discussion:** 55 years old male, known case of diabetes mellitus presented with extensive necrotizing fasciitis of left shoulder. He claimed bitten by an insect to his left hand one week prior to admission which had caused him redness and swelling up to the left shoulder. Upon presentation, patient was in shock with high septic parameter. High dose of Clindamycin and Tazocin was started. Subsequently, the patient went in for the left shoulder disarticulation and intra-operatively uneventful with blood loss of 1L. Postoperatively, patient remains oliguric and persistent metabolic acidosis despite on regular dialysis. However patient septic parameter gradually improved and the need for inotropic support was also reduced. Post-op day seven, noted cellulitis changes over the stump, thus he was posted for wound debridement of the left shoulder. Intra-operatively, deep tissue appears healthy and subcutaneous edema. Intra-operative and blood culture yield methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus which is sensitive to vancomycin. Despite septic parameter improved, the patient's condition worsens, and passed away on day 9 of admission.

**Conclusion:** Upper limb necrotizing fasciitis is a rare presentation of this life-threatening disease. An early diagnosis and subsequent prompt treatment are essential because of the high mortality rate of the disease. Once the diagnosis is made early use of IV broad-spectrum antibiotics and surgical treatment is crucial, however still there is a chance of high morbidity and mortality.