

Osteomyelitis over Cuboid: A Rare Presentation of Melioidosis

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INTRODUCTION:

Melioidosis is caused by Gram-negative bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. It usually causes abscesses in lung, liver, spleen and skeletal muscle. Bone and joint Infection caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei* including septic arthritis and osteomyelitis, is a rare but potentially severe infection.

REPORT:

A 32-year-old gentleman with underlying diabetes mellitus and hepatitis C presented with right foot swelling and pain for 2 weeks associated with fever.

Examination revealed generalized swelling, tenderness and fluctuancy from right foot to ankle. (Figure 1)



Figure 1: Right foot Swelling

Patient's white cell count was 14, CRP was 164. Blood culture and sensitivity has no growth. X-Ray of the foot does not show any abnormality. (Figure 2)



Figure 2: Right foot X-ray does not show any abnormality

He underwent wound debridement over right cuboid (Figure 3). 10cc of pus found with sequestrum over the cuboid bone intraoperatively. Bone culture and sensitivity demonstrated *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.



Figure 3 shows post debridement wound

DISCUSSION:

Melioidosis is a disease caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei* which can be spread via soil and water. *B. pseudomallei*, is endemic to the tropical regions. To our knowledge, osteomyelitis over cuboid caused by *B. pseudomallei* has not been reported. The principle of management of melioidotic bone infections is drainage and debridement of infected sites with appropriate and timely antimicrobial therapy

CONCLUSION:

Cuboid osteomyelitis is an rare presentation of melioidosis and it is difficult to differentiate *B. pseudomallei* causing osteomyelitis with other causative organisms unless proven by culture.

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