

oxygen saturation continued to drop and was diagnosed to have disseminated sepsis due to community-acquired MRSA with necrotizing pneumonia and multiple soft tissue abscesses (pyomyositis). Features of sepsis gradually subsided only after 18 days and he was discharged after 35 days on oral antibiotics which continued for 42 days. Subsequent screening for immune-deficiency was negative.

**Discussion:** MRSA should attract the attention of the medical community with high degree of suspicion, illustrating the urgency to develop better ways for early diagnosis and treatment with appropriate antibiotics as severe infections can be a great burden to health care system requiring expensive antibiotics and ICU care.

## PP 16

### Knowledge and attitudes regarding rabies among grade ten students in the Nugegoda education division

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**Objectives:** Rabies continues to contribute to the mortality, morbidity and economic burden of Sri Lanka, despite the conducive environment prevalent in our isle for its elimination. A lack of knowledge and unfavourable attitudes have been attributed as the main cause of this dilemma. Awareness activities targeting children aged 15 years and younger have been advocated as a solution to bridge the gap between the present state of burden caused by rabies and the desired state of a rabies free country. Hence this study describes the knowledge and attitudes regarding rabies, among grade ten students in the Nugegoda education division

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study with multistage cluster sampling using probability proportionate to the size of the grade 10 student population was used to collect data from 694 students in Type IAB and IC schools, using a self-administered questionnaire.

**Results:** 473(68.2%) students were found to have poor knowledge regarding rabies. 509(73.7%) students were not aware that a lick by an infected animal on mucous membranes results in transmission of the disease. Only 4.7% (n = 22) of those who had heard of rabies correctly identified sterilisation of dogs as a rabies preventive strategy. However, a majority (n=543, 78.2%) were of the view that the public should have a responsible attitude towards their dogs in order to control rabies among the dog population.

**Conclusions:** A majority of students had poor knowledge regarding rabies although most had favourable attitudes pertaining to the prevention of rabies.

## PP 17 ✓

### A Preliminary study on Oral Leukoplakia: Candida Associated Leukoplakia and risk factors

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**Objectives:** The study aimed to investigate the Candida Associated Leukoplakia (CAL), and associated risk factors among the individuals with Oral Leukoplakia (OL) attending the Oral and Maxillofacial (OMF) clinic at Colombo South Teaching Hospital

**Methods:** A total of 33 individuals with OL were included. Data was collected using a pretested interviewer administered questionnaire. A specimen was taken by a medical officer using a sterile swab adhering to standard precautions. An oral swab was collected from the lesion for direct microscopy and culture. Control swab was collected from an unaffected area. Total colony count of yeast, species identification and antifungal susceptibility tests were carried out at the Department of Microbiology at University of Sri Jayewardenepura

**Results:** The OL was predominantly seen in patients over 50 years (27/33) and male to female ratio was 27:6. Majority of patients had non-homogenous leukoplakia (20/33) followed by homogenous leukoplakia (13/33). The percentage of CAL among OL patients were 58%(19/33). *Candida albicans* 16/19(84%) was the predominant species identified in CAL. Of the patients with OL 33%(11/33) had oral cancer. Among the oral cancer patients