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SALMONELLA PARATYPHI A AS AN UNUSUAL PATHOGEN ISOLATED FROM AN INFECTED DIABETIC WOUND

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Introduction: Polymicrobial infections of chronic wounds are a serious complication among diabetic patients. We present a case report of the *Salmonella Paratyphi A* as an unusual pathogen isolated from an infected diabetic wound. In the international literature similar case was reported from India.

Case: This case was identified as a part of a study on microbial profiling of diabetic chronic wound infections.

A 76 year old female patient with type II diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia who was on oral hypoglycemics and insulin for the last fifteen years presented with a wound on the left leg. The wound was seen in the lateral side of the middle of left leg for the past 2 months. There was no evidence of local or systemic infections. Her C-reactive protein was 51 mg/l and white blood cells were $17.37 \times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$, with a neutrophil count of $9.12 \times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$. Liver and renal functions were within normal limits.

Two specimens were aseptically collected from each patient with infected diabetic chronic wounds during surgical wound debridement at Colombo South teaching hospital. One specimen was collected in to a sterile container for aerobic culture and another in to a sterile Robertson Cooked Meat Medium for anaerobic culture.

Grams' stain of the specimen, and aerobic and anaerobic cultures were performed following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) within 4hr of collection. Gram negative bacilli were observed under Grams' stain. Samples were inoculated in Blood agar, chocolate agar and MacConkey agar and incubated 18-24hrs at room air except chocolate agar which was incubated at 5-10% CO₂. Anaerobic cultures were performed as per SOP. Direct Grams' stain revealed pus cells (>25 cells/Low Power Field) with Gram negative bacilli.

The culture isolates were presumptively identified using colony morphology, Grams' stain and appropriate biochemical tests. *Salmonella Paratyphi A* was isolated from a specimen collected from together with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Identification and confirmation of suspected *Salmonella species* was done at the Enteric Reference Laboratory, Medical Research Institute, Colombo-08.

Conclusions: This is an unusual pathogen and the first case of *Salmonella Paratyphi isolation* from an infected diabetic wound from Sri Lanka according to the available literature.

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