



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

MULTIPLE INJECTION ABSCESES IN AN IV DRUG ABUSER

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Background: Intravenous drug abuse is a world wide problem with numerous minor to life threatening and fatal complications. A wide spectrum of cutaneous complications occur in the intravenous drug abusers ranging from scars at the site of injections to necrotizing fascitis. Here we report an unusual case with multiple injection abscesses caused by pseudomonas.

Overview: A 24 year old male patient, known case of IV drug abuse (brown sugar) since 3 years came with multiple erythematous soft fluctuant abscesses bilaterally on the upper extremities. Some abscesses showed ulceration on the summit. Ulcers were deep with sloping edges with a serosanguinous discharge. His blood investigations revealed high total leukocyte count (17,000) N72, L28, ESR 50mms/hr. Liver Function Tests, Renal Function Tests, blood sugar were within normal limits. ELISA for HIV and Hbs Ag was negative. His biopsy revealed necrosis of subcutaneous tissue with collection of neutrophils admixed with few eosinophils distributed over the dermis as well as sub cutaneous tissue. Findings were consistent with injection abscesses. Pus showed presence of pseudomonas species sensitive to amikacin, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, ciprofloxacin, piperacilin. Our patient was started on Ciprofloxacin and Amikacin after which there was gradual reduction in the size of the abscess.

Key message: This case is presented for its clinical rarity. IV drug abuse is becoming an increasing problem in recent times due to increase in drug abuse by youngsters.

