



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

MYCOBACTERIUM CHELONAE/ABSCCESSUS COMPLEX INFECTION OF THE LIMBS: A CHALLENGING CLINICAL CASE.

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Abstract: Mycobacterium chelonae(M. chelonae)and Mycobacterium abscessus are nontuberculous mycobacterium (NTM) with nonspecific symptoms. We present an interesting case of cutaneous M. chelonae/abscessus complex in a 26-year old female. The current disease began as two erythematous nodules with slight ulcer and pustules in the left lower limb which developed to abscess soon. After drainage with the abscess, the lesion presented with a five-month history of multiple painless cutaneous lesions at various stages of development: nodules, pustules and hemorrhagic crusts, as well as small erosions and ulcers distributed on the both lower limbs. Subsequent biopsy and culture studies were consistent with a mycobacterial infection. Culture of skin sample revealed M. chelonae/abscessus complex. The diagnosis of M. chelonae/abscessus complex infection often difficult to establish without prior suspicion of the disease, but can be confirmed with culture. We will describe the symptomatology and diagnosis of this case.

Keywords: Mycobacterium chelonae/abscessus complex, nontuberculous mycobacterium, surgical drainage, soft tissue infection

