

## ***Burkholderia pseudomallei*: A Rare Cause Of Major Amputation**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

*Burkholderia pseudomallei* (Meliodosis) is predominantly an infectious disease in the tropical regions of the world. These includes east and west coast of Malaysia. The clinical manifestation are variable ranging from localised abscess to full blown multiple abscess formation with sepsis. We hereby present a rare case of major amputation caused by melioidosis.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A 43 years old Malay lady with underlying diabetes mellitus, was admitted to our centre after her motorcycle skidded and fell into a paddy field drain. She sustained degloving injury right knee with an open comminuted supracondylar right femur fracture. Urgent wound debridement followed by subsequent multiple wound debridement with external fixator was done. After six weeks post trauma and multiple debridement, she underwent right hip disarticulation. Her blood and tissue culture showed *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.

### **DISCUSSION**

Melioidosis is transmitted via direct contact with contaminated soil or water. Patient may present with localized infection or septicaemia.<sup>1</sup> Risk factors that predispose this patient are underlying diabetes mellitus and severely contaminated wound post trauma. Treatment of melioidosis requires a long course of intravenous and oral antibiotics therapy for eradication. Ceftazidime remains the mainstay of acute phase treatment with carbapenem reserved for severe infection or treatment failure.<sup>2</sup> Course of treatment for melioidosis is time consuming and cost intensive. Multiple and aggressive wound debridement fail to control the infection. Early major amputation is a dilemma for surgeon who treated these kind of resistant infections.

### **CONCLUSION**

This case study presented a rare cause of post traumatic *Burkholderia sp.* infection causing hip disarticulation in a young patient.

### **REFERENCES**

1. How SH, Liam CK. Melioidosis: A Potentially Life Threatening Infection. Med J Malaysia 2006; 61(3): 386-94
2. Dance, D. (2018). Treatment and prophylaxis of melioidosis.