

Crab Bite Causing *Shewanella Putrefaciens* Infection: Introduction To A Possibly Deadly And Emerging Threat

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INTRODUCTION:

Shewanella species are gram-negative bacteria found in warm, temperate regions and are normal microflora of the marine environment¹. Human infections are unusual and have a restricted geographic distribution.

CASE PRESENTATION:

A 45 years old lady was bitten by a crab while she was preparing to cook it. She developed fever and swelling of the right thumb with hemoserous discharge and blackish discoloration. She was also diagnosed with leukemia during the same admission by the medical team. Upon examination, the thumb was erythematous and swollen with a hematoma filled blister formation over the dorsal aspect. Deblistering was done and fluid samples were sent for culture and sensitivity which later returned as *Shewanella Putrefaciens*. Empirically she was started on IV Augmentin.

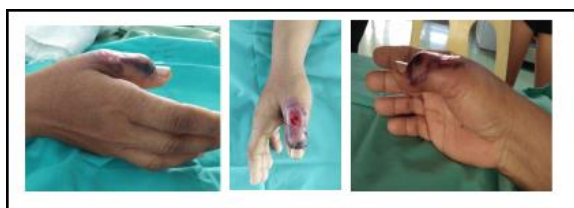


Figure 1: thumb wound post deblistering

ORGANISM ISOLATED:	
<i>Shewanella putrefaciens</i>	
ANTIBIOTICALS	
CLINDAMYCIN	S
CEFTAZIDIME	S
CIPROFLOXACIN	S
GENTAMICIN	S
CEFEPIME	S
AUGMENTIN	S
MEROPENEM	S
AMIKACIN	S
NETILMID	N/A
IMIPENEM	S
TACROLIMUS	S
COLISTIN	S
TRACOLIN	S
* moderate growth	

Figure 2: culture and sensitivity report

DISCUSSION:

Most common clinical manifestation associated with *Shewanella* spp. are superficial soft tissue infection¹. Other reported clinical features are primary and secondary bacteremia, hepatobiliary, bone, joint and CNS infection, endocarditis, eye, ear and respiratory infection². Antibiotics susceptibility includes aminoglycosides, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, carbapenems and fluoroquinolones¹. About 79% of patients have underlying conditions such as diabetes mellitus, venous congestion and heart failure; they are immunocompromised, as is our patient³.

CONCLUSION:

Proper handling of seafood during preparation should be encouraged as a simple bite may turn deadly. Initiation of antibiotics according to suspected organisms should be performed to prevent worsening of soft tissue infections.

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