

ENDOMETRIAL ACTINOMYCOSIS

by

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Summary

A case of actinomycotic involvement of the endometrium associated with an IUD is reported. The diagnosis was confirmed by both histology and anaerobic culture.

CASE REPORT

Fifty years old female, 6 gravida was admitted in L.T.M.G. Hospital for a lump in abdomen of 2 months duration and history of loop inserted in uterus 13 years back.

Abdominal examination showed presence of a lump in the abdominal wall about the size of 8 cm x 8 cm which was soft and fluctuating. On vaginal examination revealed bulky cervix and a thread of loop in cervix. Uterus was retroverted and there was pus in uterine cavity. She was treated with penicillin G.

From intestinal biopsy two smears were prepared. One was stained by Gram's method which showed presence of Gram positive delicate hyphae with clubbed ends. Besides these organisms, Gram positive cocci and Gram negative bacilli were also present. Another smear was stained by Ziehl-Neelsen stain which did not show any acid fast organism. Aspirated material was inoculated on the following media (1) thioglycollate broth (2) 2 slants of brain heart infusion agar and (3) a slant of Sabou-

raud's agar. One set of brain heart infusion agar and thioglycollate broth was incubated anaerobically and other set of brain heart infusion agar and Sabouraud's agar was incubated aerobically at 37°C.

On 3rd day of anaerobic incubation thioglycollate broth showed turbidity. The smear from the growth revealed the presence of Gram positive bacilli and branched hyphae with clubbed ends, morphologically resembling actinomyces. Unfortunately, no growth was detected on brain heart infusion agar and hence final species identification was not possible. The M.I.C. of penicillin G, for the isolated actinomyces was 0.05 µg/ml. Gram negative bacilli were confirmed as *Bacteroides melaninogenicus*.

Aerobic culture was observed for seven days and showed no growth.

An ascending source of infection for actinomycosis of the uterus has been presumed. The prolonged use of these devices cause ulceration of mucosa and predisposes the condition for actinomycosis.

The combination of different factors such as chronic tissue injury, presence of a foreign body and anaerobic flora are ideal conditions for establishment of actinomycosis.

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