Gardnerella vaginalis Urinary Tract Infection in Male Patient with Renal Allograft Transplant

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Introduction

Patients with a history of renal transplants are often immunocompromised and at risk for infection. Gardnerella vaginalis is an anaerobic gram variable organism that rarely causes infection in men. The few reported cases primarily involve urinary tract infection. The incidence of bacteremia is even more rare and there have been no reported cases of G Vaginalis infection from renal allograft transplant.

Case Presentation

We present a case of a 45-year-old male patient with a history of renal allograft transplant 4 years prior to admission who presented with acute kidney injury. We had initial concerns for acute kidney rejection. Urine cultures were positive for *G vaginalis*, and labs were negative for BK virus, CMV, and donor specific antigen. Renal biopsy showed chronic inflammation in the fibrotic areas of the interstitium and acute inflammation involving a calyceal urothelial lining. The findings were concerning for chronic pyelonephritis. The patient developed sepsis during the hospital course. He was initially treated with metronidazole and broad-spectrum antibiotics. Broad spectrum antibiotics were quickly discontinued, and the patient improved with prolonged metronidazole treatment. The patient was discharged on request to follow up for dialysis and long-term antibiotic therapy. Previous cases of *G vaginalis* in men have demonstrated susceptibility of the bacteria to Metronidazole but emphasize the unlikeliness of detection due to delay in isolation and identification. Furthermore, *G vaginalis* bacteremia is rarely found in men and there are even fewer reports of bacteremia in an immunocompromised patient such as in our case.

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Conclusion

This case highlights the importance of considering *G vaginalis* in patients, male or female, with renal allograft transplants who present with urinary tract infections.

Keywords: Infectious Diseases, Gardnerella, UTI, Renal Transplant

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