

英文題目: ***Streptococcus suis* infection: an emerging zoonotic disease in Taiwan – A case report**

中文題目: 豬鏈球菌感染症: 在台灣新興之人畜共通感染症 - 案例報告

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Introduction

Streptococcus suis is a major porcine pathogen worldwide. Transmissions to human beings are by direct contact or ingestion of undercooked pig meat and may cause severe systemic diseases, including meningitis, septicemia, endocarditis, purulent arthritis, and septic shock. Hearing loss is a frequent sequelae. Increasing numbers of human *S. suis* infection cases have emerged in recent years, mostly from China, Vietnam and Thailand. In Taiwan, eight cases of documented *S. suis* infection have been reported. Four cases had meningitis with hearing loss occurring in three and seven had bacteremia. We report a case of *S. suis* septic shock with septic arthritis associated with handling of uncooked pig brain.

Case report

An 80 years-old woman had been well until 1 day before admission, when fever, general soreness and left knee pain developed. She had a history of left knee osteoarthritis and underwent total knee replacement surgery 13 years ago. She visited another hospital initially, where shock, bicytopenia and skin rash developed. She was then transferred to our hospital, where septic shock requiring inotropic agents was noted. Ceftriaxone and minocycline was administered initially and her fever subsided. Septic arthritis of the left knee was diagnosed based on findings of the joint fluid analysis (WBC 38010/mm³, neutrophils 97%). Two days later, both cultures of the blood and synovial fluid of her left knee isolated *S. suis*. The antibiotic regimen was switched to penicillin alone. Lumbar puncture and echocardiography ruled out meningitis and endocarditis. On further questioning, the patient admitted to handling uncooked pig brain. She was discharged in stable conditions after completion of 4 weeks of intravenous antibiotics.

Discussion

S. suis is an emerging zoonosis in Taiwan and worldwide. Human infections with *S. suis* are manifested as meningitis, septicemia, septic shock, arthritis, endocarditis, pneumonia, and peritonitis, and mortality may be high. The diagnosis relies on isolation of the pathogen, which is sensitive to many antibiotics, including penicillin, ceftriaxone, cephalosporin, ampicillin and amoxicillin. The prognosis of *S. suis* infection is good if the patient is treated in time.

Conclusion

Early diagnosis and treatment of *S. suis* infection is key to a good outcome. This case report raises awareness to the emergence of *S. suis* infection. A high clinical suspicion should be maintained in patients who has a contact history with pigs, and either handling or ingestion of undercooked pork.