

## **EXTENSIVE NECROTIZING FASCIITIS COMPLICATED WITH SEPTIC ARTHRITIS: A TAWAU APPROACH OF WOUND MANAGEMENT**

Sughilan Sundara Murthi<sup>1</sup>, Lee Khong Wee<sup>1</sup>, Mustaqim Afifi<sup>1</sup>, Sazli Mohd Nor<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hospital Tawau

**Introduction:** Necrotizing fasciitis is an extensive infection involving the fascia & it poses a major challenge in terms of wound management especially when it is complicated with septic arthritis of the knee. We report a challenging case that presented with concurrent infections in a remote district hospital in which there is limited technical support.

**Discussion:** A 63 year old lady presented to us with a rapidly progressing swelling over her right knee following a trauma. On initial presentation, there was a small wound with pus discharge on the anterior aspect of her right knee. She underwent multiple debridement & arthrotomy washout which resulted in exposed patella & patella tendon. Intra-operative cultures yielded multiple organisms, of which ESBL Klebsiella ozaenae proved challenging to eradicate requiring prolonged antibiotics. Following debridement, we managed her with various options of advanced dressing namely hydrofiber dressing & calcium alginate dressing with silver, allowing patient to avoid extensive wound coverage surgery. Following few courses of advanced dressing, we resorted to split skin grafting, to expedite the process of wound healing.

**Conclusion:** The ultimate challenge in management of necrotizing fasciitis is wound management. It remains a challenge due to difficulty in wound closure as a result of extensive wound size, as well as limited technical support in a remote district hospital. However despite limited support, these types of wound can be satisfactorily managed without having to resort to extensive reconstructive surgery provided that infection is eradicated with adequate debridement, antibiotic therapy & the right choice of advanced dressing.