

## NECROTIZING FASCIITIS FOLLOWING A CAT BITE

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**Introduction:** Necrotizing fasciitis is a limb- and life-threatening rapidly spreading infection affecting the deep fascia with secondary necrosis of the subcutaneous tissue. It requires immediate medical attention and emergency surgery to prevent morbidity and mortality especially in patient with medical comorbidities such as Diabetes Mellitus. Cat bites even though seemed innocuous, have high risk of infection especially in immunocompromised patient.

**Discussion:** Our patient is a 62 years old lady with underlying diabetes mellitus and hypertension. She presented with one week history of right leg swelling with fever. Prior to the symptoms, patient was bitten at her right ankle by her own cat. On examination, there was diffuse swelling of the right leg with two puncture wounds with pus discharge (Figure 1). Patient was empirically started on broad spectrum antibiotics (amoxicillin-clavulanate). Radical debridement was done within 24 hours of admission; intraoperatively, there were classical 'dishwater' pus with fragile fascia and unhealthy tissues. Postoperatively, the antibiotics were escalated to piperacillin-tazobactam and clindamycin. Intraoperative culture however, was negative. Subsequently, serial dressing was done and skin grafting was done after a month. She progressed well afterwards.

**Conclusion:** A cat bite in an immuno compromised patient should be managed diligently with careful assessment and treatment. This case highlights the need for immediate and prompt radical debridement with appropriate antibiotics to achieve the best possible clinical outcome.