

A RARE CASE OF FOOT ‘ ALGAE’

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INTRODUCTION:

Shewanella spp. are emerging human pathogens, the predominant species being Shewanella algae. More commonly seen in immunocompromised patients with a pre-existing cutaneous ulcer and most often associated with exposure to marine environments. Appropriate antibiotic and debridement helps in prevention of these emerging pathogens

REPORT:

Case of 54 years old lady with diabetes on insulin sustained wound over left foot after stepped on stone while gardening which become infected with pus discharge. Examination show swollen foot, with pus discharge from heel . However no contact with marine environment. Patient was treated with antibiotic and planned for wound debridement. Intra-operative culture positive : Shewanella algae. Blood culture negative . She was treated with intravenous (unasin)antibiotic for 3 weeks and wound improved with vaccum- assisted closure. She was discharged on day 16 admission. Subsequent clinic follow-up shows wound healing well

Figure 1: Pre-operative wound



Figure 2: Post debridement wound



CONCLUSION:

Shewanella algae is ubiquitous in marine-associated environments and has been increasingly recognized as a significant human pathogen despite no contact with marine environment. The soft tissue infection has good clinical outcome if treated appropriately

REFERENCES:

1. Jampala Srinivas et al., Skin and Soft Tissue Infections due to Shewanella algae – An Emerging Pathogen 2015

