

## **Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection of Extremities: Early Clinical Diagnosis is Important to Reduce Mortality. A Visit.**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection (NSTI) is a lethal, rapidly progressing infection involving subcutaneous tissue and fascia which associated with high morbidity and mortality. This study aimed to determine the factor associated with its mortality.

### **METHODS:**

This prospective study included NSTI of extremities treated in our center between November 2020 - April 2022. Clinical diagnosis was made using predetermined protocol and confirmed with histopathology results, culture and sensitivity.

### **RESULTS:**

A total of 60 patients with 34 male (56.7%) were recruited. The mean age was 54.9 ± 12.2-year-old. Preoperative clinical diagnostic rate of NSTI was 86.7% (N=52). LRINEC score ≥6 was observed in 44 (73.7%). Majority of the patients were polymicrobial (40.0%, N=24). The commonest microorganism yielded was *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (37.5%, N=6). Thirty-eight (50.0%) patients required amputation as initial treatment, reoperation rate was 26.7% (N=16). Mortality rate was 16.7% (N=10).

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

There were scarce data published from Southeast Asia on extremities NSTI particularly from district region of Malaysia. This study demonstrated lower mortality rate (16.7%), compared to previous studies globally and regionally<sup>1-3</sup>.

### **CONCLUSION:**

NSTI is a clinical diagnosis. High clinical suspicion is essential in obtaining early

diagnosis and with a proper management will markedly reduce its mortality.

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