

A Case of Disseminated Meliodosis Manifesting as Left Knee Joint Septic Arthritis – Reason Behind Multiple Re-Arthrotomy Washout

¹Tangaraju L, ¹Goonasekaren S, ¹Shunmugam DK, ¹Ramalingam S, ¹Salim N
¹Department of Orthopedics, Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION:

Melioidosis is a disease caused by the organism *Burkholderia pseudomallei* which is endemic to Southeast Asia. It inoculates human via percutaneous, inhalation and ingestion route. We present a case of septic arthritis of knee secondary to disseminated melioidosis.

REPORT:

30 years old gentleman, underlying diabetes mellitus presented with right knee pain associated with fever and non-weight bearing status. Infective parameters were markedly raised and commenced on empirical antibiotic following septic workout.

Following the diagnoses of septic arthritis patient underwent emergency arthrotomy washout. Post-operative recovery over operative site and general well-being were suboptimal and subjected to second look arthrotomy washout.

Blood C&S and intraoperative tissue grew *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. Multidisciplinary approach was commenced for this patient with Infectious Disease team involvement. Suboptimal healing of knee joint led to 3rd arthrotomy washout.

Intraoperatively, Inferomedial and lateral collection were noticed communicating to knee joint. Incision extended and pus evacuated.

Patient completed antibiotics as inpatient and wound healing status was commendable.

Figure 1: Wound over inferomedial aspect of right knee.

Figure 2: Wound over lateral aspect of right knee.



*Both the wounds are at the site of underlying abscesses.

CONCLUSION:

Patients with melioidotic septic arthritis, additional imaging modalities are essential in complex and recalcitrant conditions due to abscess forming nature of the disease.

Imaging modalities around area of interest might aid management and minimize risk of multiple surgeries in melioidosis.

REFERENCES:

1. Morse, Levi P., et al. "Osteomyelitis and septic arthritis from infection with *Burkholderia pseudomallei*: a 20-year prospective melioidosis study from northern Australia." *Journal of orthopaedics* 10.2 (2013): 86-91.