Background

For many opportunistic gram-positive pathogens the clinical presentation is largely unknown and knowledge is based on case reports, which always tend to describe dramatic presentations of disease. For other pathogens such as beta-haemolytic streptococci much more is known about the presentation of invasive infections. However, since traditional streptococcal typing has relied on grouping rather than on species determination, few studies have compared the clinical presentations of different streptococcal species. There are some clues about which factors determine the prognosis of infections with *Streptococcus pyogenes* (1-3) but the exact contribution of host and bacterial factors to the prognosis is not known.

**Our interest in the clinical presentation of bacteremia with Gram-positive bacteria**

My interest in beta-haemolytic streptococci stems from my PhD work, which involved studies on *S. pyogenes* surface proteins (4-7). I have therefore been interested in cases of streptococcal infections taking unpredicted courses. We have described a case of an axillary abscess with *S. pyogenes* (8), a case of an intravascular infection with a *Streptococcus dysgalactiae* (9), and a case of recurrent sepsis with *S. pyogenes* (10). We have also described a large series of invasive aerococcal infections and found that the prognosis was much more favourable than suggested by previous case reports (11).

We will precede to describe the clinical presentation and prognosis of aerococcal bacteraemia in several Swedish centres, through studies of patient records. The presentation and prognosis of IE with aerococci will be studied using the Swedish Registry for Infective Endocarditis.

We will also continue to describe the clinical presentation of bacteraemia and severe infection with beta-haemolytic streptococci and we will analyse what host and bacterial factors that determine the prognosis of such infections. This will be done through genetic analyses on both bacteria and patients and through serological studies.

Magnus Rasmussen, April 2013

References


