

Kocuria Keratitis: A Rare and Diagnostically Challenging Infection of the Cornea

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Abstract : Named after the Slovakian microbiologist, Miroslav Kocur, the *Kocuria* spp. are an emerging cause of significant human infections. Their predilection for immunocompromised states, such as malignancy and metabolic disorders, is highlighted in the literature. The coagulase-negative, gram-positive cocci are commensals found in the skin and oropharynx of humans, and their growing presence as responsible organisms in ocular infections cannot be ignored. The severe, rapid, and unrelenting disease course associated with *Kocuria* keratitis is underlined in the literature. However, the clinical features are variable, which may impede making a diagnosis. Here, we describe a first account of an initial misdiagnosis due to reliance on subjective analysis features on a confocal microscope, which ultimately led to a delay in commencing the correct treatment. In documenting this, we hope to underline to clinicians the difficulties in recognising a *Kocuria Rhizophilia* keratitis due to its similar clinical presentation to an *Acanthamoeba* Keratitis, thus emphasizing the need for early investigations such as corneal scrapes to secure the correct diagnosis and prevent further harm and vision loss for the patient.

Keywords : keratitis, cornea, infection, rare, *Kocuria*

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