

Clostridium Glycolicum Abdominal Infection in a Patient with Small Bowel Obstruction

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Abstract : Clostridium glycolicum is a gram-positive, anaerobic, spore-forming rod that is not commonly identified as a primary human pathogen. Here is a case of a 60-year-old patient with a history of opioid use disorder who underwent a number of abdominal surgeries for small bowel obstruction. His hospital course was complicated by Clostridium glycolicum infection resulting in an acute abdomen. The patient clinically improved with antibiotic therapy. A thorough review of the National Institute of Health database revealed that only a small number of cases have been reported since 2007, with the last postsurgical cases documented in 2009 and the last clinical case documented in 2012. Clostridium glycolicum infections have been noted in patients with immunosuppressive conditions or those undergoing medical treatments that compromise immune function. This case was unusual due to the patient being immunocompetent. We suggest that a case of an acute abdomen should consider this organism as an etiological agent.

Keywords : acute abdomen, bacterial infection, clostridium glycolicum, meckel's diverticulum, pneumoperitoneum, small bowel obstruction

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