کارگاه‌های آموزشی مرکز اطلاعات علمی

مقاله نویسی علوم انسانی

اصول تنظیم قراردادها

آموزش مهارت های کاربردی در تدوین و چاپ مقاله
Bacteriological Study of Diabetic Foot Infections at an Iranian Hospital

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Dear Editor,

Foot infections are one of the main causes of hospitalization and the leading cause of morbidity in patients with diabetes (1, 2). Diabetic foot lesions may manifest as ulceration, gangrene, Charcot’s joint, or fracture, and if not treated promptly, may necessitate amputation (3). The proper management of these infections requires early recognition, selection of the appropriate antibiotic, and quick initiation of the antibiotic therapy on the basis of the results of culturing and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. The aim of this study was to determine the relative frequency of bacterial isolates cultured from diabetic foot infection. We also performed antimicrobial susceptibility testing with commonly used antimicrobial agents to assess the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance patterns in the bacterial isolates.

A total of 77 patients with diabetic foot infection who were referred to the surgery ward of Taleghani Hospital between 2007 and 2009 were included in this study. The samples obtained from these patients included ulcers curettages, abscesses, and deep-tissue needle aspirates. Standard identification tests and antimicrobial susceptibility testing using disc diffusion method were performed for all the isolated strains (4,5).

Staphylococcus aureus, coagulase-negative Staphylococci (CoNS), and Escherichia coli were the most common bacterial species (Table 1). Out of the 69 patients with positive cultures, 34 (49 %) were infected with a single organism, while 43 (51 %) had mixed infections. One hundred and four aerobic (96.5 %) and 5 anaerobic (4.5 %) bacteria were detected. Aerobic as well as anaerobic organisms were isolated from diabetic foot ulcers of 4 patients (6 %). S. aureus was the most frequently detected pathogen (19.4 %); this finding is similar to that of a previous study conducted in Iran (34.4 %) (6). Antibiotic susceptibility analysis of S. aureus and Staphylococcus epidermidis showed that all strains were methicillin resistant; a majority of the isolates of S. aureus were sensitive to vancomycin and imipenem. The S. epidermidis isolates were sensitive to vancomycin and imipenem. Enterococcus spp. showed high levels of resistance to erythromycin, oxacillin, penicillin, and Amoxicillin/ clavulanic acid. In E. coli isolates, 90 %, 95 %, and 95 % of the isolates were resistant to ciprofloxacin, co-trimoxazole, and cephalothin, respectively, while 95 % were sensitive to imipenem. All isolates of P. aeruginosa were sensitive to imipenem and 16 % were sensitive to clavulanic acid and ciprofloxacin. All P. aeruginosa isolates were resistant to co-trimoxazole and cephalexin (Table 1). The most commonly isolated microorganisms from diabetic foot lesions in this study were gram-positive aerobes; this finding is consistent with those of previous studies conducted in other countries (7-9). Some studies from India showed that the Proteus species and P. aeruginosa were the most frequently isolated bacteria from diabetic foot lesions (1, 9). Polymicrobial infections were seen in 35 (51 %) of the cases of diabetic foot infection. The anaerobes identified in this study belonged to the Peptococcus and Peptostreptococcus genera; this finding is in agreement with those of a study by Gerdin and smith et al. in USA (10, 11). The percentage of anaerobes identified in this study (4.5 %) was lower than those reported by Shankar et al. (10.5 %) and El-Tahawy (11 %) (12,
13). Clostridium spp. and gram-negative anaerobes like Bacteroides spp. and Fusobacterium spp. were reported in some other studies (14, 15). Methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) has become increasingly prevalent in diabetic foot wounds. All the isolates of S. aureus were methicillin-resistant; this finding is in accordance with the finding reported by Ravisekhar et al. (1).

In conclusion, our study showed that gram-positive bacteria are the most frequently isolated bacteria from patients with diabetic foot infections caused by microorganisms with the multidrug resistance phenotype. It appears that imipenem and vancomycin can effectively treat the infections when empirical therapy needs to be considered. Further understanding of the causative organisms of diabetic foot infections and their antimicrobial susceptibility pattern is essential for establishing antimicrobial therapy and managing complications of diabetic foot infections, such as foot amputation.

Financial Support

This study was supported by a grant of Research Center for Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

Conflict of interest

None declared.

Acknowledgment

We are thankful to Mr. Hamedi for his technical help.

Keywords: Diabetic foot; Antibiotic susceptibility; Multidrug resistance

References

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