

What is the significance of a positive *Cutibacterium acnes* culture in a native hip joint

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- The aim of this case report is to show the significance of an unexpected positive culture of *Cutibacterium acnes* in a native hip who underwent replacement surgery.
 - Methods-A 44 years old male presented initially to ED department with acute onset of left hip pain without any history of trauma.
 - From his past medical history, we noticed pulmonary tuberculosis treated many years ago in India. Patient was known with penicillin allergy.
 - He underwent Xray ,MRI scan, blood tests and hip aspiration to rule out any infection. Results showed an AVN of the hip and microbiology cultures come back negative for growth.
 - Patient was referred to Specialist for a Total hip replacement surgery. Surgery was performed a couple of months later .Intraoperatively, to rule out any suspicion of TB, aspirate and tissue samples were taken from the hip.
 - Clinically patient recovered well and following day post surgery was discharged.
 - Results-48 h post surgery microbiology report from 2 tissue samples positive for *Cutibacterium acnes* sensitive to Amoxicillin. Tuberculosis cultures were negative.
 - Results were discussed in MDT meeting, and treatment with oral antibiotics was initiated for 6 weeks as a precaution
- At follow-up appointment patient was pain free, no post surgical wound concerns. Inflammatory markers within normal range.

Conclusions

- In an AVN type of picture of the hip with no predisposing factors consider the possibility of an underlying low-grade infection
- In a suspicion of native hip infection despite negative aspirate cultures, consider tissue samples intraoperatively
- In the presence of positive intraoperative cultures in a hip replacement consider treatment with antibiotics