

A 4 year retrospective survey of *Actinomyces* spp. in a large district general hospital

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Abstract

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS foundation Trust (CHFT) is in West Yorkshire, UK. It has over 1400 beds and covers a population of 460,000. It was observed in the trust that there was an increased reporting of *Actinomyces* spp. These are coryneform organisms that colonize the gut, mouth and vagina but may cause slow indolent infections that are often misdiagnosed. A retrospective survey was performed using the pathology IT system named APEX (ACT Medisys Ltd, Newbury, and Berkshire, UK). The aims were to determine number, species, antibiogram and anatomical location of *Actinomyces* over 4 years. Results showed 2013: 7 known isolates. 2014: 4 known isolates. 2015: 16 known isolates. 2016: 16 known isolates. At least 11 different species were identified during this time. The commonest species was *A. turicensis* (as opposed to *A. israeli* as reported in literature), and the commonest anatomical area of location was pilonidal sinuses. An increased isolation was seen over the years (may coincide with purchasing of a MALDI- TOF mass spectrometer for identification purposes in the laboratory).

Biography

Sahar Musaad has over 15 years of experience as a clinical microbiologist in the UK. She attained her undergraduate medical degree from the University of Khartoum, Sudan and her Fellowship of the Royal College of pathologists in the UK. She also has a Masters and PHD in Molecular Medicine from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She has an interest in coryneform bacteria, fungal infections, vascular infections and inflammatory marker.



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