

Nosocomial Multidrug-Resistant *Acinetobacter Baumannii* Meningitis: Two Cases Study

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Case Report

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Abstract: *Acinetobacter baumannii* is a frequent agent of nosocomial infections, which often proves to be multiresistant to the tested antibiotics, but is rarely involved in nosocomial meningitis. We report two cases of nosocomial meningitis with *Acinetobacter baumannii* multiresistant: in the first case it was a complication of a cranial trauma whereas in the second case, it was postoperative nosocomial meningitis in neurosurgery. The diagnosis was retained on a cluster of clinical, biochemical and bacteriological arguments. The outcome was unfavorable with patient deaths.

Keywords: *Acinetobacter baumannii*, multiresistant, nosocomial meningitis, colistin, tigecycline.

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, *Acinetobacter baumannii* (AB) has evolved from a low-grade pathogen to one of the main germs responsible for nosocomial infections with significant morbidity and mortality [1]. It is a germ associated in large part with the quality of hygiene and the various invasive devices especially in the intensive care units [2]. However, it is a rare germ in the nosocomial meningitis and is exceptional as a source of postoperative meningitis, and makes it difficult to manage both diagnostically and therapeutically [3]. Indeed, the *Acinetobacter baumannii* have a power of development of resistance to the antibiotics, in particular the carbapenems, making the meningitis to this germ a bit delicate to manage given the lack of antibiotics which at the same time; Diffuse at the neuro-meningeal level and which are effective against multi-resistant AB (ABMR) [4].

OBSERVATIONS

Case 1

He is an 18 years old victim of a road accident involving a polytrauma. The patient was admitted to the de-shock service and required intubation and assisted ventilation. The evolution was marked at D14 by the advent of nosocomial pneumopathy with evidence of the presence of multi-sensitive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, methicillin-sensitive staphylococcus aureus, and the *Acinetobacter baumannii* multi-resistant susceptible to colistin alone, which was started intravenously. At D15, his neurological condition was aggravated in relation to nosocomial meningitis. A lumbar puncture was performed. The proteinorrachia was 19 g / l and glycorrachia was very low (0.04 g / l). A blood count showed a leukocyte count at 31 100 / mm³ with 80% neutrophilic polymorphonuclear cells. The reactive C-protein was at 235 mg / L. Bacteriological examination revealed the presence of *Acinetobacter baumannii* with the same phenotype of antibiotic resistance as that of protected distal bronchial specimen and a blood culture

carried out. The outcome was unfavorable with patient death on D18.

Case 2

It is a 10-year-old girl with a history of complicated meningitis of hydrocephalus. Admitted to the neurosurgery department for external derivation, the patient received a preoperative lumbar puncture which was sterile. The evolution was marked by the occurrence at postoperative D4 of a nosocomial meningitis of consciousness disorders (obnubilation) and fever at 39-40°C. A performed cerebral tomodensitometry was normal (except for hydrocephalus), whereas the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) study, based on the lumbar puncture and the bypass drain, showed hypercellularity predominantly polymorphonuclear neutrophil, proteinorrachia at 4g / l and hypoglycorrachia at 0.08g / l, with bacteriological examination the presence of *Acinetobacter baumannii* multiresistant except colistin. A blood culture carried out was sterile. The patient was placed under colistin intravenously but the development

was unfavorable with the death of the girl at D10 postoperative.

DISCUSSION

Acinetobacter spp. is polymorphic non-fermentative, gram-negative coccobacilli which are non-sporulated but sometimes capsulated in pathological specimens. They are strict aerobic, positive catalase and negative oxidize. Ubiquitous germs that are widely distributed in the nature, soil, freshwater, in animals and food (dairy, meat, etc.), are capable of using a wide variety of substrates as a source of energy, which allows them to have a very large habitat and to persist in a hostile environment (ventilation equipment, mattresses in burners, perfusion bottles, incubator water, etc.). Acinetobacter is a human commensal and is part of the cutaneous flora (folds, interdigital spaces). Acinetobacter baumannii is the species involved in nosocomial infections. The first reservoir is the infected and / or colonized patient, the environment constituting only the secondary reservoir. Manuporting is the main route of transmission [5,6,7].

The preferred infectious sites of Acinetobacter. baumannii are pneumopathies, infections of the urinary tract and soft part and bacteraemia [6, 8]. Nosocomial meningitis with Acinetobacter. Baumannii are relatively rare [9] and exceptional after neurosurgical intervention (craniotomy, ventriculostomy)

The main risk factors are: advanced age, urgent neurosurgical procedures, external ventricular drainage (delay ≥ 5 days). Any neurosurgical intervention with or without an external ventricular drain is potentially a source of nosocomial meningitis with Acinetobacter. Baumannii [10].

The nosocomial etiology was retained when the meningitis occurred after 48 hours of hospitalization, the surgical procedure and the previous cyto-bacteriological examination of CSF which was sterile. The responsibility of Acinetobacter. Baumannii was retained in front of: predominantly polynuclear neutrophilic hypercellularity, concomitant biochemical abnormalities of CSF (hypoglycorrhachia and hyperproteinorrhachia), isolation of Acinetobacter. baumannii, in pure culture and with the same profile of resistance to antibiotics, from lumbar puncture, blood cultures and protected distal bronchial specimen.

For our first patient, the most probable contamination hypothesis is that of diffusion contamination from the near pulmonary focus due to the isolation of an Acinetobacter. Baumannii with a resistant profile identical to the strain isolated at level of CSF and blood culture, whereas for the second patient, contamination by invasive procedures (placement of

external ventricular catheter) and manuportage is most probably.

The treatment of these strains of Acinetobacter. Baumannii multidrug-resistant, poses a real therapeutic problem (reduced number of active molecules, the property of crossing the blood-brain barrier and CSF diffusion). The high sensitivity to colistin makes it the only therapeutic alternative available. This molecule has been successfully used intravenously or intrathecally in the treatment of multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter. baumannii infections [11, 12]. Our patients were treated by intravenously colistin, but the evolution was unfavorable.

Currently, a new combination of tigecycline and colistin is reported to be effective in the intrathecally treatment of nosocomial meningitis with Acinetobacter baumannii multiresistant. However, the use of tigecycline in infections of the nervous system is not well studied [13, 14].

Mortality associated with nosocomial infections with Acinetobacter. baumannii is high and especially in neurosurgery. Studies reported a mortality rate of 27% in the United States [5] and 15% in Australia [15]. Gulati and al in India reported a significantly higher mortality rate in patients with nosocomial meningitis compared to those with multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter. Baumannii [5]. The evolution was unfavorable for our two patients, a few days after the diagnosis.

Strategies for the control of nosocomial infections must necessarily incorporate prevention that has proved to be as effective as it is efficient (increasing hygiene in the hospital, disinfection of the hands by hydro-alcoholic friction, banning the permanent wearing of gloves without changing between sickness, geographic and technical isolation, effective surveillance and prevention program) and the rationalization of antibiotic prescribing in order to reduce the selection pressure.

CONCLUSION

Multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter. Baumannii meningitis is severely complicating neurosurgical procedures. Treatment of these infections is a challenge for the clinician and the therapeutic experience with these multi-resistant organisms is limited. Colistin has increased its therapeutic efficacy and tigecycline may have an important place in the treatment of these infections. Life expectancy is often initiated with high mortality.

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