

SURGICAL INFECTIONS

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SURGICAL INFECTIONS

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ANTIBIOTICS

- *Definition*
- *Pathogenesis*
- *Clinical features & investigations (general)*
- *Common pathogens*
- *Common infections*
- *Antibiotics use*

Therapeutic

Prophylactic

INFECTION

Invasion of the body by pathogenic microorganisms and reaction of the host to organisms and their toxins

SURGICAL INFECTIONS

- A surgical infection is an infection which requires surgical treatment and has developed before, or as a complication of surgical treatment.

Surgical Infection

- *A major challenge*
- *Accounts for 1/3 of surgical patients*
- *Increased cost to healthcare*

Factors contributing to infections

- *Adequate dose of microorganisms*
- *Virulence of microorganisms*
- *Suitable environment (closed space)*
- *Susceptible host*

Pathogenicity of bacteria

Exotoxins: specific, soluble proteins, remote cytotoxic effect
Cl. Tetani, Strep. pyogenes

Endotoxins: part of gram-negative bacterial wall,
lipopolysaccharides e.g., E coli

Resist phagocytosis: Protective capsule
Klebsiella and Strep. pneumoniae

Host Resistance

- *Intact skin / mucous membrane.*
(surgery/ trauma-break it)

- *Immunity:*
Cellular (phagocytes)
Antibodies

Prevention of surgical infection

- *Patient in best general condition.
(host defense)*
- *Minimize introduction of pathogens during surgery.*
- *Good surgical technique.*
- *Peri-operative care (support defense)*

Clinical features

- ***Local-*** *pain, heat, redness, swelling, loss of function*
(apparent in superficial infections)
- ***Systemic-*** *fever, tachycardia, chills*
- ***Investigations:***
 - Leukocytosis*
 - Exudates- Gram stain, culture*
 - Blood culture (chills & fever)*
 - Special investigations (radiology, biopsy)*

Principles of surgical treatment

- ***Debridement-*** *necrotic, injured tissue*
- ***Drainage-*** *abscess, infected fluid*
- ***Removal-*** *infection source, foreign body*
- ***Supportive measures:***
 - *immobilization*
 - *elevation*
 - *antibiotics*

STREPTOCOCCI

- *Gram positive*
- *Flora of the mouth and pharynx, (bowel)*
- *Streptococcus pyogenes* –(β hemolytic) 90% of infections e.g., lymphangitis, cellulitis, rheumatic fever
- *Strep. viridens*- endocarditis, urinary infection
- *Strep. fecalis* – urinary infection, pyogenic infection
- *Strep. pneumoniae* – pneumonia, meningitis

STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

Erysipelas

- *Superficial spreading cellulitis & lymphangitis*
- *Area of redness, sharply defined irregular border*
- *Follows minor skin injuries*
- *Strep pyogenes*
- *Common site: around nose extending to both cheeks*
- *Penicillin, Erythromycin*



SREPTOCOCCAL INFECTION

Cellulitis

- *Inflammation of skin & subcutaneous tissue*
- *Non-suppurative*
- *Strep. Pyogenes*
- *Common sites- limbs*
- *Affected area is red, hot & indurated*
- *Treatment : Rest, elevation of affected limb*
 - Penicillin, Erythromycin*
 - Fluocloxacillin (staph. suspected)*



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NECROTIZING FASCIITIS

- *Necrosis of superficial fascia, overlying skin*
- ***Polymicrobial***
 - strep, staph, enterococci, bacteroides, enterobacteriaceae***
- *Sites-* *abd.wall (Meleny's),*
perineum (Fournier's),
limbs,
- *Usually follows abdominal surgery or trauma*

NECROTIZING FASCIITIS

- *More in diabetic patient*
- *Starts as cellulitis, edema, systemic toxicity*
- *Appears less extensive than actual necrosis*
- *Treatment:*
 - Debridement , repeated dressings, skin grafting*
 - Broad spectrum antibiotics*
 - ampicillin, clindamycin, aminoglycosides*



STAPHYLOCOCCI

- *Inhabitants of skin, Gram positive*
- *Infection characterized by suppuration*
- **Staph.aureus-** *SSI, nosocomial ,superficial infections*
- *Staph. epidermidis-* *opportunistic (wound, endocarditis)*
- *Antibiotics: Penicillin, Cephalosporin, Vancomycin*
- *MRSA: Vancomycin*

STAPHYLYCOCCAL INFECTIONS

- ***Abscess-*** *localized pus collection*
Treatment- drainage, antibiotics
- ***Furuncle-*** *infection of hair follicle / sweat glands*
- ***Carbuncle-*** *extension of furuncle into subcut. tissue*
common in diabetics
common sites- back, back of neck
Treatment: drainage, antibiotics, control diabetes



Surgical site infection (SSI)

- *38% of all surgical infections*
- *Infection within 30 days of operation*
- *Classification:*
 - **Superficial:** *Superficial SSI–infection in subcutaneous plane (47%)*
 - **Deep:** *Subfascial SSI- muscle plane (23%)*
 - *Organ/ space SSI- intra-abdominal, other spaces (30%)*
- ***Staph. aureus**- most common organism*
- ***E coli**, Enterococcus ,other Entetobacteriaceae- deep infections*
 - *B fragilis – intrabd. abscess*

Surgical site infection (SSI)

- ***Risk factors:*** age, malnutrition, obesity, immunocompromised, poor surg. tech, prolonged surgery, preop. shaving and type of surgery.
- ***Diagnosis:***
Sup.SSI- erythema, oedema, discharge and pain
Deep infections- no local signs, fever, pain, hypotension.
need investigations.
- ***Treatment:*** surgical / radiological intervention.



Surgical site infection (SSI)

Intra-abdominal infections

- *Generalized*
- *Localized*
- *Prevention- good tech., avoid bowel injury, good anastomosis.*
- *Diagnosis- History, exam., investigations.*
- *Treatment- surgery/ intervention*
Antibiotics (aerobe+ anaerobe)

GRAM NEGATIVE ORGANISMS

(Enterobactericiae)

Escherichia coli

Facultative anaerobe, Intestinal flora

Produce exotoxin & endotoxin

Endotoxin produce Gram-negative shock

***Wound infection, abdominal abscess,
UTI, meningitis, endocarditis***

Treatment- ampicillin, cephalosporin, aminoglycoside

GRAM NEGATIVE ORGANISMS

Pseudomonas

- *aerobes, occurs on skin surface*
- *opportunistic pathogen*
- *may cause serious & lethal infection*
- *colonize ventilators, iv catheters, urinary catheters*
- *Wound infection, burn, septicemia*
- *Treatment: aminoglycosides, piperacillin, ceftazidime*

CLOSTRIDIA

- *Gram positive, anaerobe*
- *Rod shaped microorganisms*
- *Live in bowel & soil*
- *Produce exotoxin for pathogenicity*
- *Important members:*
 - Cl. Perfringens, Cl. Septicum (gas gangrene)*
 - Cl. Tetani (tetanus)*
 - Cl. Difficile (pseudomembranous colitis)*

GAS GANGRENE

- ***Cl. Perfringens, Cl. Septicum***
- *Exotoxins: lecithinase, collagenase, hyaluronidase*
- *Large wounds of muscle (contaminated by soil, foreign body)*
- *Rapid myonecrosis, crepitus in subcutaneous tissue*
- *Seropurulent discharge, foul smell, swollen*
- *Toxemia, tachycardia, ill looking*
- *X-ray: gas in muscle and under skin*
- *Penicillin, clindamycin, metronidazole*
- *Wound exposure, debridement , drainage, amputation*
- *Hyperbaric oxygen*

TETANUS

- *Cl. Tetani, produce neurotoxin*
- *Penetrating wound (rusty nail, thorn)*
- *Usually wound healed when symptoms appear*
- *Incubation period: 7-10 days*
- *Trismus- first symptom, stiffness in neck & back*
- *Anxious look with mouth drawn up (risus sardonicus)*
- *Respiration & swallowing progressively difficult*
- *Reflex convulsions along with tonic spasm*
- *Death by exhaustion, aspiration or asphyxiation*

TETANUS

- **Treatment:**

- wound debridement, penicillin*

- Muscle relaxants, ventilatory support*

- Nutritional support*

- **Prophylaxis:**

- wound care, antibiotics*

- Human TIG in high risk (un-immunized)*

- Commence active immunization (T toxoid)*

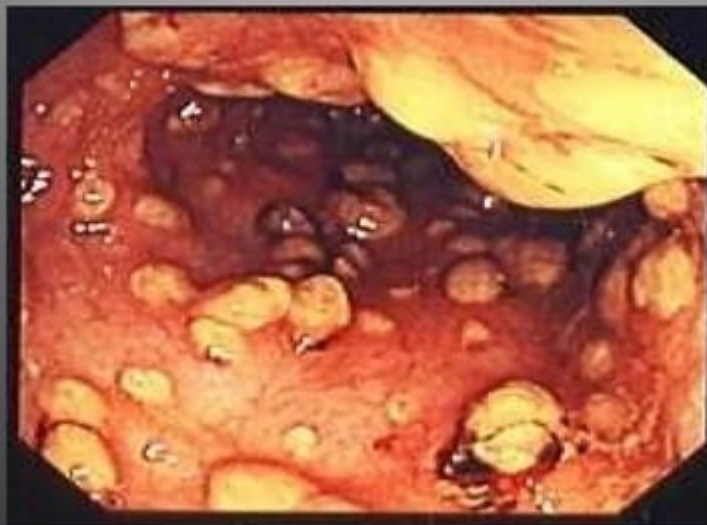
- Previously immunized-*

- booster >10 years needs a booster dose*

- booster <10 years- no treatment in low risk wounds*

PSEUDOMEMBRANOUS COLITIS

- *Cl. Difficile*
- *Overtakes normal flora in patients on antibiotics*
- *Watery diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever*
- *Sigmoidoscopy: membrane of exudates (pseudomembranes)*
- *Stool- culture and toxin assay*
- *Treatment :*
 - stop offending antibiotic*
 - oral vancomycin/ metronidazole*
 - rehydration, isolate patient*



GRAM NEGATIVE ANAEROBES

Bacteroides fragilis

- *Normal flora in oral cavity, colon*
- *Intra-abdominal & gynecologic infections (90%)*
- *Foul smelling pus, gas in surrounding tissue, necrosis*
- *Spiking fever, jaundice, Leukocytosis*
- *No growth on standard culture*
- *Needs anaerobe culture media*
- *Treatment:*

Surgical drainage

Antibiotics- clindamycin, metronidazole

ANTIBIOTICS

Chemotherapeutic agents that act on organisms

- *Bacteriocidal: Penicillin, Cephalosporin, Vancomycin
Aminoglycosides*
- *Bacteriostatic: Erythromycin, Clindamycin,
Tetracycline*

ANTIBIOTICS

- ***Penicillins-*** *Penicillin G, Piperacillin*
- ***Penicillins with β -lactamase inhibitors-*** *Tazocin*
- ***Cephalosporins (I, II, III)-*** *Cephalexin, Cefuroxime, Ceftriaxone*
- ***Carbapenems-*** *Imipenem, Meropenem*
- ***Aminoglycosides-*** *Gentamycin, Amikacin*
- ***Fluoroquinolones-*** *Ciprofloxacin*
- ***Glycopeptides-*** *Vancomycin*
- ***Macrolides-*** *Erythromycin, Clarithromycin*
- ***Tetracyclines-*** *Minocycline, Doxycycline*

ROLE OF ANTIBIOTICS

- ***Therapeutic:***

To treat existing infection

- ***Prophylactic:***

To reduce the risk of wound infection

ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY

(*Guideline for surgical infections*)

- **Pseudomembranous colitis-** *oral vancomycin/ metronidazole*
- **Biliary-tract infection-** *cephalosporin or gentamycin*
- **Peritonitis-** *cephalosporin/ gentamycin + metronidazole/ clindamycin*
- **Septicemia-** *aminoglycoside + ceftazidime, Tazocin or imipenem,
(may add metronidazole)*
- **Septicemia due to vascular catheter-** *Flucloxacillin/ vancomycin
or Cefuroxime*
- **Cellulitis-** *penicillin, erythromycin
(flucloxacillin if Staphylococcus infection. Suspected)*

ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS

- *Prophylaxis in clean-contaminated/
high risk clean wounds*
- *Antibiotic is given just before patient
sent for surgery*
- *Duration of antibiotic is controversial
(one dose- 24 hour regimen)*

ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS

BASED ON SURGICAL WOUND CLASSIFICATION

- A. Clean : CLASS I e.g. surgeries on thyroid gland, breast, hernia,
- • No need for prophylaxis in clean surgeries, except for :
 - Immunocompromised patients, e.g. diabetics, patients using corticosteroids.
 - If the surgery include inserting foreign materials such as artificial valves.
 - High risk patients like those with infective endocarditis.

The risk of postoperative wound infection is around 2%.

ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS

- B. Clean/Contaminated (minimal contamination) : CLASS II
e.g., biliary, urinary, GI tract surgery
- Prophylaxis is advisable, and the risk of infection is about 5-10%.

ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS

- C. Contaminated (gross contamination) :
CLASS III e.g. during bowel surgery
- Prophylaxis is advisable and the risk of infection is up to 20%.

ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS

- D. Dirty : CLASS IV *through established infection*
e.g., peritonitis (up to 50%)
- The use of antibiotic is considered to be of therapeutic nature (not prophylactic).
- The risk of infection is up to 50%.

