Vibrio Vulnificus-necrotizing Fasciitis in Patient with Cirrhosis

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A 54-year-old man with a history of hepatic cirrhosis and diabetes presented with fever, diarrhea, arthralgia, and swelling of the right lower limb after eating raw sea bream and crab two days earlier. His symptoms were treated at a local clinic the following day, but his condition worsened. Upon admission to our hospital, he was in shock and his right lower limb was swollen, mottled, and blistered (Fig. 1). The radiograph showed gas within the fascia planes of the lower limb (Fig. 2). Blood culture and culture of the necrotic gastrocnemius tissues grew Gram-negative bacillus, which was later confirmed to be Vibrio vulnificus. A diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis was made and the patient was treated with intravenous meropenem and ciprofloxacin following an above-the-knee amputation.

Patients with hepatic cirrhosis or diabetes might develop fulminant necrotizing fasciitis caused by V. vulnificus infection and the mortality rate is high. Greater awareness of this condition will allow prompt and aggressive treatment.

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