Helicobacter cinaedii in Urine

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A 77-year-old man on hemodialysis due to nephrosclerosis was admitted due to feverishness. No other symptoms or signs were remarkable except for penal pain on micturition. Laboratory data revealed pyuria and leukocytosis, but the patient was HIV-negative. Urine gram staining revealed a number of curved negative rods (Picture) and a few positive cocci, although urine culture was only positive for Enterococcus faecalis even on blood agar under microaerophilic conditions. On the 5th hospital day, curved gram negative rods grew from 2 sets of blood cultures, which were identified as Helicobacter cinaedii. If the blood cultures were negative and only the results of the urine culture had been adopted, then this case could have been misdiagnosed as an enterococcal infection. H. cinaedi infections have been mostly diagnosed based on the findings of blood cultures, and they may thus be under-diagnosed not only due to difficulty in culturing this pathogen, but also by omitting a basic step in the diagnostic process, such as performing gram staining of local specimens.

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