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Clinical characteristics and outcomes of patients with *Klebsiella pneumoniae* visceral organ abscesses in Singapore

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Background: *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (KP) has emerged, in recent years, as the predominant microbiological aetiological agent of pyogenic liver abscesses. KP, as the causative microorganism in other visceral organs, is less described despite its pathogenicity for tissue invasion. In this study, we seek to describe the clinical characteristics of patients with KP visceral organ abscesses in our institution.

Material/methods: A retrospective analysis of patients with culture-positive KP visceral organ abscesses from May 2015 to Apr 2016 requiring hospitalization in the Changi General Hospital, was conducted to evaluate their clinical characteristics and outcomes.

Results: In this study period, there were a total of 43 men and 27 women with culture-positive KP visceral organ abscess. The mean age of the patients was 64.4 years. Of these 70 patients, 40 (57.1%) had underlying diabetes mellitus. The commonest presenting symptom was fever (81.4%). 50 patients (71.4%) had documented bacteremia. 4 patients (5.7%) had abscesses in more than one visceral organ. The commonest sites of abscess formation include 54 in the liver (77.1%), 8 in the prostate (11.4%), 7 in the kidney (10.0%). Metastatic infection occurred in 23 patients (32.9%), involving the lung (20%), genitourinary tract (8.6%), musculoskeletal system (7.1%), central nervous system (5.7%), endovascular system (4.3%) and the eye (2.9%). All isolates were ampicillin resistant with 20 isolates (28.6%) exhibiting intermediate resistance to cefuroxime. The majority (95.7%) were non-extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing. Recurrence rate was low at 1.4% and mortality rate was 8.6%.

Conclusions: Our study concludes that KP also causes visceral organ abscesses in sites other than the liver, namely the genitourinary tract.