**Sneathia amnii epidural abscess following hysteroscopy: a case report**

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**Background:** Members of the genus *Sneathia* form a part of the normal flora of genitourinary tract of females and have been recently implicated as emerging pathogens of the female reproductive tract. Here, we describe a case of epidural abscess due to *Sneathia amnii* following intervention of the genital tract.

**Material/methods:** A 54 year old woman presented with acute severe low back pain. One week prior to the onset of low back pain, she had undergone a hysteroscopy for peri-menopausal bleeding and excision of uterine polyps. There was no precipitating trauma, previous instrumentation or known abnormalities of her lumbar spine. Mild L4/5 disc space narrowing was seen on initial lumbar spine radiograph. Despite analgesia, rest and physiotherapy for presumptive degenerative disc disease, her back pain persisted. No fever, motor, sensory or sphincter dysfunction was reported. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of her lumbar spine three weeks after the onset of low back pain revealed a posterior spinal epidural abscess extending from L3 to L4, causing mild to moderate left lateral recess and central canal stenosis and septic arthritis of the facet joints. Extensive investigations to determine the aetiology of the epidural abscess, including cultures of blood and urine, computed tomography
scan of thorax, abdomen and pelvis, were all negative. She underwent a posterior decompression and debridement of L3/4 lumbar spine.

Results: Intra-operatively, abnormal soft, pale yellow, dull epidural tissue was found to be compressing the left L4 nerve root and cauda equina. Multiple tissue samples sent for aerobic, anaerobic, and fungal and mycobacterial cultures were negative. Histology showed acute inflammation with necrosis and granulation tissue negative. The 16SrRNA PCR and sequencing revealed the presence of Sneathia*amnii*. Metronidazole 400mg 8hrly was used to treat the patient after results of 16SrRNA detected Sneathia.

Conclusions: Sneathia are fastidious Gram negative, pleomorphic coco anaerobic bacilli which rarely cultured in vitro. *Sneathia sanguinegens* and *amnii*, previously called *Leptotrichia*, have recently been associated with bacterial vaginosis, sponantaneous abortion and other conditions of female reproductive tract. Invasive infections (bacteraemia and septic arthritis) are rare. To the best our knowledge, this appears to be the first case of epidural abscess due to *Sneathia amnii* in an immunocompetent patient with history of intervention of the reproductive tract.