GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS MYCOTIC ANEURYSM OF THE THORACIC AORTA: A CASE REPORT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract. Group B streptococci are an uncommon cause of mycotic aneurysm. We report here the case of a mycotic aneurysm caused by *Streptococcus agalactiae*. A 67-year-old male presented to our hospital with a 2-week history of progressive hoarseness, weight loss, odynophagia. He denied fever or dysphagia. On examination he was afebrile with a normal pulse rate and blood pressure. He had a white plaque in the mouth. He had left vocal cord paralysis. His heart and lung sounds were normal. His white blood cell count in the blood was 10,330 WBC/mm$^3$ with 82% neutrophils. Computed tomography of his chest showed a saccular thoracic aortic aneurysm 4.9 cm in diameter that extended from the distal aortic arch to the proximal part of the descending aorta. The patient was presumed to have a mycotic aortic aneurysm. He was started on ceftriaxone empirically. A total aortic arch replacement was performed 3 days after starting antimicrobial treatment. Amplification and sequencing of the bacterial 16SrRNA gene from the resected aortic wall revealed *S. agalactiae*. Blood cultures were negative and tissue biopsy of the aortic wall revealed no organisms on Gram stain or bacterial culture. After surgery the patient was continued on 6 weeks of intravenous antimicrobial therapy. The patient improved and he went home in good condition. *Streptococcus agalactiae* can cause mycotic aortic aneurysm.

Keywords: group B Streptococcus, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, mycotic aneurysm, infected aortic aneurysm