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Case Report

Migrating Periprosthetic Infection from a Total Hip Replacement to a Contralateral Non-Operated Osteoarthritic Knee Joint

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: There is a paucity of published data on whether a treated infected arthroplasty is a risk factor for infection in another, non-operated joint. Contamination of a primary, arthritic, non-operated joint from an infected arthroplasty is a relatively rare entity.

Case: We report a case of migration of a pathogen (*Enterococcus faecalis*) from an infected prosthetic joint (hip) to the contralateral native joint (knee). Identification of the pathogen was made with PCR, by obtaining cultures during the implantation of the primary knee prosthesis.

Conclusion: Contamination of a primary, arthritic, non-operated joint from an infected arthroplasty has not been widely reported. Management of such cases is extremely challenging and without clear and established guidelines. Our experience shows that tissue samples should be taken intraoperatively and sent for cultures, so as to exclude contamination in those cases.

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