A rare cause of liver abscess in a Western Country

*Klebsiella pneumoniae* is a common cause of pyogenic liver abscess in patients with diabetes mellitus, preexisting hepatobiliary disease and those from Southeast Asia\(^1\), where it accounts for 50% to 73% of cases\(^2\). But, in the last decades, there has been an increasing number of reports in Western countries\(^3\).

A 61-year-old Portuguese male, without significant past medical history, was admitted with right upper quadrant abdominal pain and fever. He denied any recent foreign travel. Laboratory analysis showed 6900 leucocytes, C-reactive protein 287.5 mg/L, total bilirubin 1.1 mg/dL, AST 116 UI/L, ALT 88 UI/L, alkaline phosphatase 180 UI/L. Abdominal Computed Tomography (CT) scan revealed a 3.4x3.3 cm complex mass in the IV hepatic segment with multiple septations. Blood cultures grew *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and, according to the antibiogram, he was placed on ceftriaxone for 21 days. The abscess was drained by interventional radiology and gram stain and cultures of pus were positive for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. His clinical condition improved and a follow-up CT, after antibiotic therapy, showed complete resolution of liver abscess.

References

1. Lederman ER, Crum NF. Pyogenic liver abscess with a focus on Klebsiella pneumoniae as a primary pathogen: an emerging disease with unique clinical characteristics. AM J Gastroenterol. 2005 Feb;100(2):322-31.

Diagnosis

Pyogenic liver abscess caused by *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

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