

中文題目: Prototheca 藻血症

英文題目: Prototheca algaemia: a rare but fatal opportunistic infection among immunocompromised individuals

作者: 葉峻樺¹, 李明吉², 莊銀清³, 柯文謙², 湯宏仁¹

服務單位: 財團法人奇美醫院內科部¹, 成功大學附設醫院內科部², 財團法人柳營奇美醫院³

Summary:

Infections due to *Prototheca* spp. are ubiquitous in nature, occurring in both immunocompetent and immunocompromised patients. However, little information is available on the clinical features and prognosis of *Prototheca* algaemia. We searched the PubMed database to find the reported cases of *Prototheca* algaemia. We reviewed demographic profiles, underlying diseases, antimicrobial therapies, and clinical outcomes of the published cases and cases occurring in two hospitals in southern Taiwan. The study cohort consisted of 14 cases of *Prototheca* algaemia reported in the past five decades and two cases from study hospitals. *P. wickerhamii* (13 cases) was the most common species. Patients in all cases were immunocompromised. No relationship between algaemia and a central venous catheter, ventilator, or major surgery was identified. Concurrent or preceding bacterial, candidal, or cytomegalovirus infections were common. Algaemia presented as healthcare-associated infections. When amphotericin-B therapy was used for 11 cases, five (45.5%) died, but when antifungal therapies other than amphotericin B or no antifungal therapy were used, all five cases were fatal ($p = 0.09$, Fisher's exact test). The overall mortality rate was 62.5% (10 cases). *Prototheca* algaemia, a healthcare-associated infection, was noted in immunocompromised patients and heralded a poor prognosis.