



# *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*-Related Hepatic Abscess in an Immune-Competent Patient

Saadia Shafi\*

Department of Infectious Disease, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

## DESCRIPTION

*Achromobacter xylosoxidans*, formerly known as *Alcaligenes xylosoxidans*, is a Gram-negative bacterium belonging to the family *Alcaligenaceae*. This bacterium is ubiquitous in the environment, commonly found in soil, water, and various natural reservoirs [1]. While it is considered an environmental bacterium, it has also been identified as an opportunistic pathogen, primarily causing infections in individuals with compromised immune systems, such as those with cystic fibrosis, chronic lung diseases, or undergoing immunosuppressive therapy.

Diagnosing *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*-related hepatic abscess in an immune-competent patient posed several diagnostic challenges. The rarity of this bacterium in such cases meant that it was not initially considered in the differential diagnosis [2]. Typically, clinicians are more likely to suspect more common pathogens such as *Escherichia coli* or *Klebsiella pneumoniae* when dealing with hepatic abscesses.

Moreover, conventional microbiological techniques can sometimes misidentify *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* as other Gram-negative bacteria. In this case, advanced diagnostic methods, including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and sequencing, were utilized to confirm the bacterial species accurately [3].

Once the diagnosis was confirmed, the patient was initiated on a tailored antibiotic regimen based on the susceptibility profile of *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*. Initially, broad-spectrum antibiotics such as ceftriaxone and metronidazole were started empirically [4]. However, as soon as susceptibility testing results became available, the antibiotic therapy was adjusted to target the specific pathogen effectively.

Fortunately, the patient's response to treatment was favorable, with a gradual resolution of her symptoms and a return to normal liver function as indicated by laboratory tests [5]. She was discharged from the hospital with a prolonged course of antibiotics to ensure complete eradication of the infection.

The occurrence of *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*-related hepatic abscess in an immune-competent patient challenges the conventional wisdom regarding opportunistic infections. While this bacterium is often associated with immunocompromised states, this case underscores the need for clinicians to remain vigilant and open to the possibility of unusual pathogens causing infections, even in otherwise healthy individuals [6].

The diagnosis of *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* infections can be challenging due to its rarity and the potential for misidentification with standard laboratory techniques [7]. Molecular diagnostic methods, such as PCR and sequencing, may be important in accurately identifying this pathogen. This is the importance of advanced diagnostic tools in modern medicine.

The importance of antibiotic therapy based on susceptibility testing cannot be overstated. *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*, like many opportunistic pathogens, can exhibit resistance to multiple antibiotics [8]. Accurate susceptibility testing helps in selecting the most effective antibiotics, improving patient outcomes and reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

While the source of infection in this case remained unclear, it serves as a reminder of the critical role of infection control practices in healthcare settings [9]. Surgical procedures, even routine ones like cholecystectomy, carry a risk of introducing pathogens. Adherence to strict aseptic techniques and antibiotic prophylaxis is essential to minimize this risk.

The fact that this patient, who was immune-competent, developed a severe infection with *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* raises questions about the interplay between the immune system and uncommon pathogens [10]. Further research is needed to understand why some individuals with intact immune systems are susceptible to such infections.

The case of *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*-related hepatic abscess in an immune-competent patient serves as a remarkable medical anecdote, highlighting the complexity and diversity of infectious diseases. It challenges our assumptions about which pathogens

**Correspondence to:** Saadia Shafi, Department of Infectious Disease, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, E-mail: saadia.shafi08@gmail.com

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can cause infections in different clinical contexts and underscores the importance of advanced diagnostic techniques, tailored antibiotic therapy, and infection prevention measures in modern healthcare. Moreover, it prompts us to explore the intricate interactions between the human immune system and uncommon pathogens and understanding in the field of infectious diseases.

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