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# Infection-Associated Mycobacterium Fortuitum Infection

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# Infection-Associated *Mycobacterium Fortuitum* Infection



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## Introduction:

Mycobacterial species are unusual causes of skin and soft tissue infections and can be difficult to diagnose in the absence of consideration as they often require specific culture media and longer incubation times. We report a *M. fortuitum* subcutaneous abscess in a diabetic related to medication injection that was initially diagnosed without specialized media or incubation time

## Case Report:

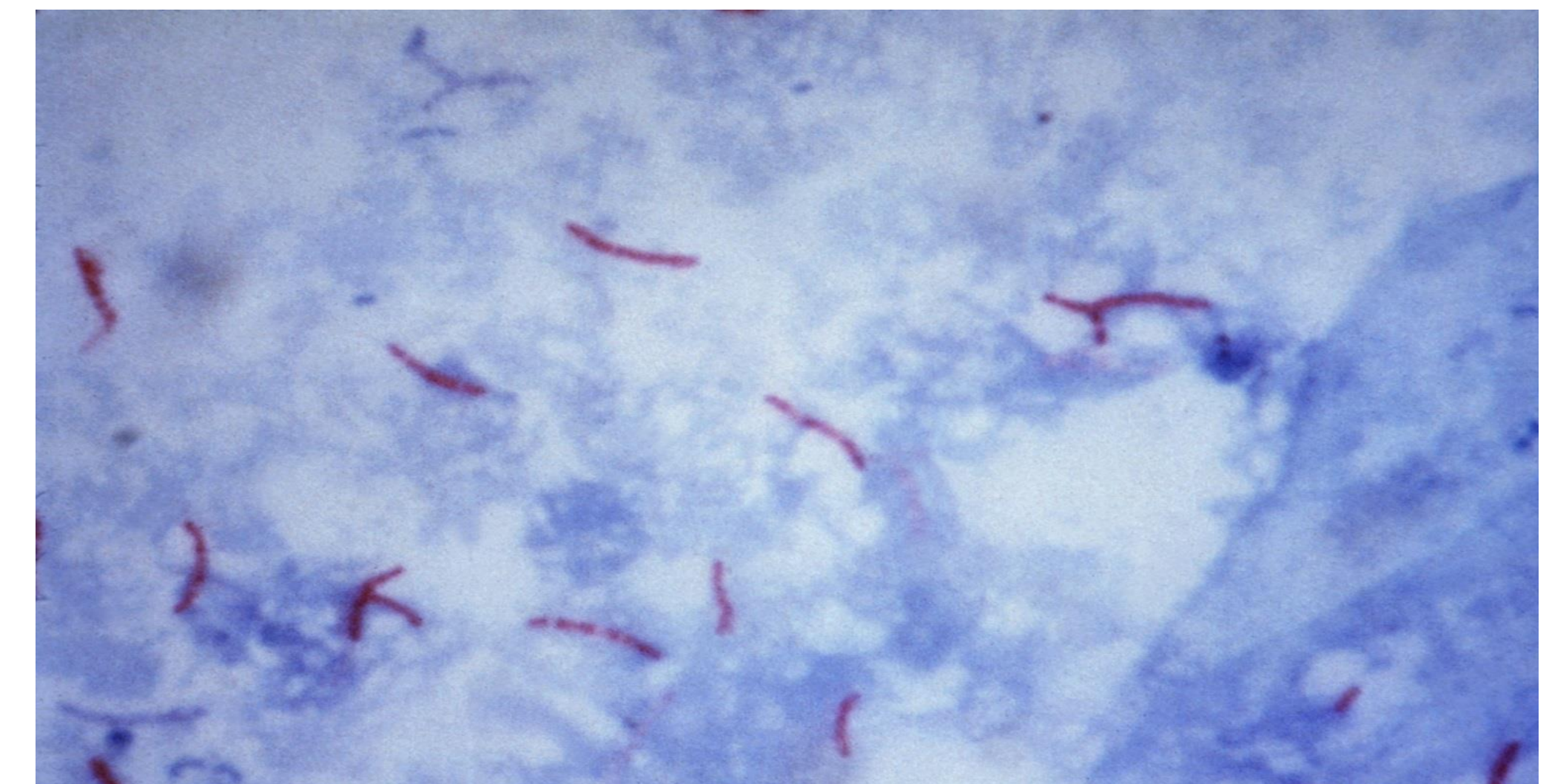
A 48 year old diabetic female developed a progressive subcutaneous swelling in the tissues of the right lower abdominal wall where she had been injecting liraglutide. Because of continued enlargement "to almost egg size" with pain, she was empirically treated with cephalexin and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole without improvement. Subsequently, a formal I&D was performed producing non-foul smelling purulence. The Gram stain showed many PMNs with any organisms seen and the culture in 4 days revealed a Gram positive rod subsequently identified as *M. fortuitum* by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

She was referred to out-patient Infectious Disease clinic. When seen, neither before or after drainage, had she noted any fever, chills, sweats or other constitutional symptoms. On examination, there was a 2 mm opening without drainage at the inferior lateral aspect of the otherwise healed I&D incision.

The patient was prescribed oral trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and clarithromycin to be continued for 6 months. During therapy, the incision completely healed and two months following the end of the therapy, she was totally asymptomatic.

## Conclusion:

*M fortuitum* is one of the species of mycobacteria that grows rapidly upon culture and can be found during the time that a routine bacterial culture is incubated on routine culture media. These organisms are more often identified when the clinician suspects a more unusual etiology of infection because of an indolent nature and poor response to standard antimicrobial therapy. In this case, the lab was able to isolate the organism without requiring specialized media leading to more rapid and curative therapy.



## References:

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