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Citation	The 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Hong Kong Urological Association (HKUA), Hong Kong, China, 9 November 2014. In Programme Book, 2014, p. 55, abstract no. OP.4-4
Issued Date	2014
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10722/207789
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Review of the Microbiology and Antibiotic Sensitivities of Fournier's Gangrene in a Local Centre: 12 Years' Experience

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Objective:

To review the local microbiology & antibiotic sensitivities of organisms found in cultures from patients with Fournier's gangrene in a local centre over 12 years

Patients & Methods:

All patients diagnosed with Fournier's Gangrene since 2001 were recruited and their records retrieved and evaluated. Patient demographics, culture results, antibiotic sensitivities from culture results, antibiotics given to patients on presentation, number of operations, and outcomes were analyzed.

Results:

A total of 32 patients were identified. Only 29 patients have complete set of culture and sensitivities, with a mean age of 65 years. Among them, 89% had multiple organisms on culture. The 3 most common organisms were bacteroids (62%), E. coli (48%), and Enterococcus (31%). 18% of the microbes produced ESBL. The antibiotics that most organisms were sensitive to were imipenem, gentamicin, and augmentin. Levofloxacin was resistant in 80% of the patients, whereas cefuroxime resistance reached 40%. Only 15 patients' records described the antibiotics used on presentation, of which only 7 patients (46.7%) had been prescribed an antibiotic that did not have antibiotic resistance on culture.

Conclusion:

When prescribing antibiotics for patients with Fournier's gangrene, one must take into consideration the high resistance to levofloxacin and cefuroxime in Hong Kong.