Preface

Guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of anaerobic infections

Upon the publication of the Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Anaerobic Infections (2007), as a representative of Japanese Society of Chemotherapy and Japanese Association for Anaerobic Infection Research, we would like to take this opportunity to offer a few comments.

Obligate anaerobes, found in anaerobic environments of the human mucosa, are more active than facultative anaerobes and play major roles among the bacteria found under these circumstances. Both anaerobes and aerobes found on the mucosa are known to be beneficial for humans. However, mucosal collapse and other adverse events can trigger these bacteria to deeply invade tissues, thereby damaging health. The diseases possibly caused by anaerobes can be roughly divided into five categories: (1) diseases due to tissue invasion by endogenous anaerobes from the mucosa, (2) diseases due to tissue invasion by exogenous anaerobes from the environment, (3) diseases due to toxins produced by anaerobes, (4) diseases due to disturbance of the normal bacterial flora primarily composed of anaerobes and (5) in-hospital infections due to anaerobes. We believe that this guideline is extremely important on an international scale, because it fully describes diagnosis and treatment of anaerobic infections as applicable to each medical specialty and disease category. Although there may be readers who do not fully agree with the publication of this guideline, we believe that guidelines will continue to be developed and improved over time. We hope that the validity of this guideline will be verified by readers and users, with the goal of making it more complete through the efforts of the many people involved.

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