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Summary

MICROBIOLOGY OF PYOGENIC LIVER ABSCESSES – A NON-TROPICAL CENTRE'S EXPERIENCE

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A retrospective study of 115 pyogenic liver abscess patients in Portugal from 2012-2022 found Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae were the most common pathogens, with low antibiotic resistance rates but frequent use of broad-spectrum antibiotics.

KEY POINTS

- The most common risk factors were biliary calculi (32%) and diabetes mellitus (27%), with 41% of patients having bile duct obstruction at diagnosis and 32% having undergone biliary tract manipulation within 30 days.
- Blood cultures were positive in 33% of cases and drainage cultures in 70%, with Escherichia coli (22-34%) and Klebsiella pneumoniae (16-17%) being the most frequently isolated organisms.
- Only one ESBL was identified in blood cultures and three in drainage cultures, with no KPC identified; 40% of drainage cultures grew multiple organisms (2-4 microorganisms).
- Piperacillin-Tazobactam was the most used empiric antibiotic (54%), with effectiveness rates of 84% for Piperacillin-Tazobactam, 100% for Meropenem, and 90% for Ceftriaxone.
- The 30-day mortality was 9%, with average antibiotic duration and hospital stay both approximately 24 days; the authors concluded that broad-spectrum antibiotics were frequently used unnecessarily.

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