

## CO-INFECTION OF THE HUMAN CORNEA WITH *STENOTROPHOMONAS MALTOPHILIA* AND *CANDIDA* *ALBICANS* -- A CASE REPORT

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**Purpose:** To report a case of co-infection of the human cornea by *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* and *Candida albicans*.

**Method:** A case report.

**Result:** An 82-year-old female with poor health condition had suffered from an unhealed right eye corneal epithelial defect since previous endophthalmitis. This time she complained of sudden right eye pain for five days. Corneal ulcer was diagnosed. Three months ago, she had undergone a smooth cataract surgery. Unfortunately, endophthalmitis developed 3 days after the operation. After receiving topical and intravitreal injection of antibiotics, endophthalmitis was under control. The patient had been using topical antibiotics and receiving subconjunctival injection of betamethasone. The patient's right eye anterior chamber was clear for almost 6 weeks until this new episode of corneal ulcer was noted. Cultures from corneal scrapings showed infection by *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*. Despite topical 1% amikacin, 10% piperacillin and 0.5% levofloxacin use, corneal condition continued to deteriorate. Fungal infection was suspected when satellite lesions occurred. Infection by *Candida albicans* was confirmed by culture of corneal scraping. With antibacterial and anti-fungal agents use, eventually infection was under control.

**Conclusion:** Infection by *S. maltophilia* and *Candida albicans* has common risk factors such as a compromised cornea, exposure to broad-spectrum antibiotics and topical immunosuppressants. If corneal infection cannot be controlled by appropriate antibiotics, and any finding of fungal infection is observed, the possibility of co-infection by bacteria and fungus must be considered.

**Key words:** Corneal ulcer, Co-infection, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, *Candida albicans*

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