A Geriatric Breast Abscess due to *Salmonella enteritidis*

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**Introduction**

Breast abscesses occur most commonly during pregnancy and lactation. However, increasing numbers of breast abscesses are being reported in non-lactating patients as well [1]. *Salmonella typhi* can cause breast abscess infrequently and have been reported in up to 0.9% of *S. typhi* infections [2]. Non-typhi isolates of Salmonella are even rarer [2].

**Keywords:** Breast abscess; Salmonella; Breast Implants; Geriatric

**Case Report**

A 66 year old Liberian woman presented with a one week history of weakness, polydipsia, polyuria and poor appetite along with a right breast swelling without fever or chills. She denied diarrhea, trauma or recent illness. She had a history of breast cancer and underwent a lumpectomy; subsequently she had bilateral breast implants with silicone over twenty years ago. Examination revealed: temperature 39.3 °C and a right breast that was fluctuant and red with purulent nipple discharge without axillary lymphadenopathy. Laboratory results revealed: WBC 17x10/L and glucose 557 mg/dl. An incision and drainage of the right breast abscess and implant removal were done. Abscess fluid grew *Salmonella enteritidis*. Blood, stool and urine cultures were negative. She was treated with two weeks of levofloxacin.

**Discussion**

Localized infection occurs from overt or occult bacteremia with seeding a distant site, often with preexisting disease [3]. Risk factors may include: malignancy [4], local trauma [4], and hematoma [3]. Isolated breast abscess from *S. enteritidis* infection has not been reported in a nonpuerperal geriatric woman with a breast implant. Our patient did not have any evidence of a recurrence of her breast cancer. Previously seven cases of non-typhi breast abscesses have been reported (3 infants and 4 adults) [4-7]. Three of the four adults were related to pregnancy. None were older than forty years. Our case had several unique features: no antecedent illness, no animal contact or recent travel. It also serves as a reminder that breast masses may not always be malignant prompting microbiologic evaluation.

**References**