In November 2012, a 44-year-old was subsequently promised patients, its safe use in such patients and in the exacerbation of the feeding tube. Carnobacteria and lactobacilli contamination was bacterial contamination of the solution or colonization of enteral nutrition, we presume that the origin of the infection was bacterial contamination of the solution or colonization of the feeding tube. Carnobacteria and lactobacilli (which are used as probiotic bacteria or fermented food products) are similar in that each is found in food, can be used as a biopreservative, and is considered nonpathogenic. The pathogenic relevance of lactobacilli is uncommon, but some clinical infections have been reported, including septicemia and meningitis. Because C. divergens seems to be able to cause life-threatening infection in immunocompromised patients, its safe use in such patients and in the food industry should be monitored.

Three reports of isolation of Carnobacterium from humans have been published. The first report described isolation of Carnobacterium from 1 set of blood cultures from a man who had prepared fish before onset of fever. The imputability of this diagnosis could not be clearly established because only 1 set of blood cultures had positive results. The second report described isolation of C. piscicola from pus after traumatic amputation of a hand by an industrial water sawmill. The third report described isolation from a child’s hand with multibacterial synergistic gangrene.

For the case described here, the presence of C. divergens in blood cultures cannot be considered contamination because it was isolated from 4 sets of blood cultures collected over 5 days. We hypothesize that bacterial translocation was caused by low mesenteric flow after 2 episodes of cardiac arrest. Because the patient was receiving exclusive enteral nutrition, we presume that the origin of the infection was bacterial contamination of the solution or colonization of the feeding tube. Carnobacteria and lactobacilli (which are used as probiotic bacteria or fermented food products) are similar in that each is found in food, can be used as a biopreservative, and is considered nonpathogenic. The pathogenic relevance of lactobacilli is uncommon, but some clinical infections have been reported, including septicemia and meningitis. Because C. divergens seems to be able to cause life-threatening infection in immunocompromised patients, its safe use in such patients and in the food industry should be monitored.

References

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Fatal Nosocomial MDR TB Identified through Routine Genetic Analysis and Whole-Genome Sequencing

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To the Editor: In November 2012, a 44-year-old HIV-negative white man (patient 1) with fever, fatigue, and breathlessness sought care at a hospital in the United Kingdom. He had never traveled abroad but had biopsy-proven alcoholic cirrhosis. No acid-fast bacilli were seen on multiple samples, including ascitic fluid, and he received treatment for presumptive abdominal tuberculosis (TB). Mycobacterium tuberculosis was subsequently cultured after 12 days. His clinical condition deteriorated, and he died of multiorgan failure 44 days after admission. The cultured M. tuberculosis was subsequently

Routine mycobacterial interspersed repetitive unit–variable-number tandem-repeat (MIRU-VNTR) testing was performed (1) (online Technical Appendix Table). A matching MIRU-VNTR profile was identified from a 42-year-old South African–born, HIV-positive health care worker (patient 2) who had died in 2008 after admission to the same hospital. She has been described previously in detail because she had worked at Tugela Ferry hospital in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, which was associated with a 2005 outbreak of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (2,3) (online Technical Appendix Figure 1). To ascertain whether these isolates could have matching MIRU-VNTR patterns by chance alone, we compared the MIRU-VNTR results with a national database of ≈11,745 isolates typed since the UK typing service began in 2010. Only 2 other isolates matched (from patients 3 and 4), originating from a UK hospital ≈100 miles away. Although both patients were HIV-positive health care workers from sub-Saharan Africa, no history of contact could be established with patients 1 or 2.

A review of admission records established that patients 1 and 2 were admitted to the same medical ward in 2008 for 8 days, suggesting a high probability of nosocomial transmission. The ward had a traditional “Nightingale” configuration with beds for male and female patients arranged dormitory-style. In 2009, patient 1 had been identified as a contact of patient 2 and was offered screening for latent infection but had failed to attend appointments and was not under regular medical follow-up. No other common contact was identified. The estimated time from known contact between patients 1 and 2 until the clinical presentation of patient 1 was 49 months.

Sequencing libraries from genomic DNA extracted from the 4 UK M. tuberculosis isolates that had matching MIRU-VNTR profiles were paired-end sequenced by using Illumina MiSeq (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). To investigate the origins of the infections, they were compared with 36 South Africa strains (including 1 from the Tugela Ferry outbreak [4]) sequenced by using Illumina HiSeq 2000 platforms.

For each sequenced strain, a random subset of reads was aligned at ≥100× coverage to the M. tuberculosis H37Rv reference genome by using BWA version 0.5.9-r16 (5). Pilon v1.5 (http://www.broadinstitute.org/software/pilon/) was run in variant discovery to generate a list of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and insertions and deletions. We estimated a phylogeny using RAxML v7.7.8 (6) using a general time reversible + gamma substitution model with 1,000 bootstrap replicates.

Pairwise comparison of whole-genome sequences from M. tuberculosis isolated from patients 1 and 2 found that the 2 sequences differed at only 4 SNPs (Table). Based on previous estimates of background mutations rates of 0.5 SNP/year (7), the pairwise distance between isolates from patient 1 and 2 increases confidence in the epidemiologic data implicating transmission >4 years earlier, although uncertainties exist around such estimates. Comparison between samples from patient pairs (1+2 vs. 3+4) found differences of 69–72 SNPs, which strongly argues against transmission between them.

In comparison with isolates sampled from KwaZulu-Natal (online Technical Appendix Figure 1), isolates from patients 1 and 2 were closely related to a strain associated with the Tugela Ferry outbreak (KZN605; online Technical Appendix Figure 2). Isolates from patients 3 and 4 were less closely related to isolates from the Tugela Ferry outbreak but were closely related to other isolates circulating within the region, consistent with the hypothesis that both infections originally occurred within South Africa.

This investigation illustrates the power of current technology to inform our understanding of the links in MDR TB transmission between low- and high-incidence areas. Whole-genome sequencing of pathogens is becoming part of routine practice for establishing transmission and resistance patterns (8). The greater certainty it brings to transmission data can provide evidence to justify more active policies of screening and isolation as part of infection control. The nosocomial transmission described here is consistent with the fact that a person with pulmonary TB (patient 2) was managed on an open ward before being put into respiratory isolation and had not been previously screened by occupational health services.

Recent data reviewing MDR TB transmission in the United Kingdom before 2007 did not identify cases of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isolate</th>
<th>Patient 1</th>
<th>Patient 2</th>
<th>KZN605</th>
<th>Patient 3</th>
<th>Patient 4</th>
<th>H37Rv</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient 1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN605</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient 3</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient 4</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H37Rv</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
nosocomial transmission during that period (9). However, the emergence of MDR TB in regions of high HIV prevalence is relatively recent (10), and the cases described here suggest that increased vigilance for TB and MDR TB among migrating health care workers might be required.

Acknowledgments

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References


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Fatal Bacteremia Caused by Campylobacter gracilis, United States

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To the Editor: Campylobacter species are well known to cause gastrointestinal infections in humans. However, extraintestinal illnesses caused by Campylobacter spp., including bacteremia, can also occur, primarily in immunocompromised persons (1). Campylobacter gracilis is a newly recognized species (2) that is commonly found in the oral flora and that has been associated with periodontal diseases and pleuropulmonary infections (3–6). Furthermore, a wide range of infectious etiologies caused by C. gracilis at different anatomic sites have been reported in the literature, suggesting its highly pathogenic potential (7,8). We describe a case of bacteremia due to C. gracilis complicated by pneumonia.

An 80-year-old man with a history of hypertension, hypertensive nephropathy, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was in his usual health status when he began having worsening productive cough, fevers, and malaise; he sought health care 5 days later at Long Island College Hospital (Brooklyn, NY, USA). A heavy smoker who was noncompliant with his COPD treatment, he had frequent episodes of COPD exacerbation necessitating chronic maintenance with oral steroid therapy.

At physical examination, the patient appeared chronically ill and had mild respiratory distress. His temperature was 100.8°F, blood pressure 124/67 mm Hg, pulse 106 beats/min, respiration 22 breaths/min, and oxygen saturation 94% on room air. His heart sounds revealed tachycardia without murmurs, and his lung sounds disclosed scattered wheezing and rhonchi.
Fatal Nosocomial MDR-TB Identified through Routine Genetic Analysis and Whole-Genome Sequencing

Technical Appendix

**Table. Characteristics of 4 clinical isolates from patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>MIRU-VNTR</th>
<th>RIF</th>
<th>rpoB</th>
<th>INH</th>
<th>katG</th>
<th>mabA†</th>
<th>PZA</th>
<th>pncA</th>
<th>EMB</th>
<th>embB</th>
<th>STR</th>
<th>gidB‡</th>
<th>gidB‡</th>
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<td>R</td>
<td>L452P§</td>
<td>H1028R</td>
<td>S315T</td>
<td>–8(t&gt;a)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>ins¶</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>M306V</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>130 bp del</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>224331432615324</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>L452P§</td>
<td>H1028R</td>
<td>S315T</td>
<td>–8(t&gt;a)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>ins¶</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>M306V</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>130 bp del</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22433143261532-3324132</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S315T</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>L26S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22433143261532-3324132</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S315T</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>L26S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*EMB, ethambutol; INH, isoniazid; MIRU-VNTR, mycobacterial interspersed repetitive units–variable-number tandem-repeat; PZA, pyrazinamide; R, resistant; RIF, rifampin; S, sensitive; STR, streptomycin.
†Promoter mutation, cross-resistance to thioamides.
‡Escherichia coli L533P
§No resistance single-nucleotide polymorphisms in rpsL or rrs.
¶1 bp insertion in codon 153.
Technical Appendix Figure 1. Isolates sequenced from KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa, with number from each district sampled as part of KZNSUR project. Inset: Map of South Africa with KZN shaded.
Technical Appendix Figure 2. Phylogenetic representation of isolates collected from the United Kingdom (patients 1–4) and KZN (33) Nodes with bootstrap values <80 are indicated. Sequencing data were submitted to the Sequence Read Archive with identifiers: PRJNA198182, PRJNA198181, PRJNA198148, PRJNA198149, PRJNA198124, PRJNA198185, PRJNA198180, PRJNA198186, PRJNA198176, PRJNA198108, PRJNA198103, PRJNA198130, PRJNA183521, PRJNA198168, PRJNA227150, PRJNA198163, PRJNA198172, PRJNA198106, PRJNA183515, PRJNA198122, PRJNA227148, PRJNA198135, PRJNA198128, PRJNA198147, PRJNA198169, PRJNA198143, PRJNA198113, PRJNA198167, PRJNA198170, PRJNA198131, PRJNA227149, PRJNA198179, PRJNA198132, PRJNA183519, PRJNA198161, PRJNA198159, ERS568284, ERS568285, ERS568286, ERS568287