## Possibility of Frequent Detection of Invasive Cyberlindera fabianii Infection Using Molecular Method

Young Jin Kim, John Jeongseok Yang, Hee Joo Lee

Department of Laboratory Medicine, School of Medicine, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea

A case of fungemia caused by *Cyberlindera fabianii* was reported in the September issue of Annals of Clinical Microbiology. The *C. fabianii* that causes rare invasive infection can easily be misidentified as *Candida utilis* by Vitek-2 YST ID (bioMérieux, USA) and as *Candida pelliculosa* by API kit (bioMérieux, USA) with high probability. Recently, we also experienced a case of fungemia caused by *C. fabianii* that was

We read an interesting case report by Lee et al. in the September issue of Annals of Clinical Microbiology titled "Successful treatment of fungemia caused by *Cyberlindnera fabianii* with anidulafungin: a case report" [1]. Both two recent reports from Korea [1] and India [2] in 2015 describe misidentifications as *Candida utilis* using VITEK-2 YST ID card (bioMérieux, France) with high probability of 93% [1] and 97% [2], respectively. In other previous cases using rapid identification kit, *C. fabianii* was misidentified as *Candida pelliculosa* by API 32C kit (bioMérieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France) (%id 57.3; T 0.85) misidentified as *C. pelliculosa* using API 20C Aux (bioMérieux, USA). As molecular identification is becoming more widespread, cases of *C. fabianii* infection are expected to be more frequently identified. (Ann Clin Microbiol 2015;18:133-134)

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[3] and API 20C Aux (bioMérieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France) (%id not shown) [4]. Recently, we experienced a case of fungemia caused by *C. fabianii* from an intensive care unit (ICU) patient in neutropenic state with catheter insertion. Blood agar plate incubated for 24 hours under 35°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> condition had small white colonies with Gram stain results almost identical to the previous report showing variable sized yeast-like cells (Fig. 1) [1].

Initial identification result using API 20C Aux (bioMérieux, France) was *C. pelliculosa* (%id 99.5; T 0.54). Isolation of *C.* 



Fig. 1. Morphologic and microscopic features of *Cyberlindnera fabianii* colonies subcultured on blood agar plate. (A) Small white colony on blood agar plate. (B) Variable sized Gram-positive yeast-like cells (×1,000).

Received 23 November, 2015, Revised 4 December, 2015, Accepted 7 December, 2015 Correspondence: Hee Joo Lee, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Kyung Hee University Hospital, School of Medicine, Kyung Hee University, 23 Kyungheedae-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 02447, Korea. (Tel) 82-2-958-8672, (Fax) 82-2-958-8609, (E-mail) leehejo@khmc.or.kr

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*pelliculosa* from blood is an uncommon finding at least in our institution. Therefore, a sequencing analysis was conducted on the internally transcribed spacer (ITS) region using primer pair of ITS1/ITS4: forward ITS 1 5' -TCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCG G-3'; reverse ITS 4 5' -TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC-3'. The best match in ITS1/IST4 region sequencing using BLASTn on the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) sequence database was *C. fabianii* (accession no. JQ342083.1, 600/600 100%) and the second match was *Pichia mississippiensis* (accession no. GQ340433.1, 584/593 98.5%).

According to a survey in Korea regarding the distribution of fungal species recovered from clinical specimen, both *C. utilis* and *C. pelliculosa* were rarely isolated with proportions of 0.1% (34/37,847) and 0.2% (74/37,847), respectively [5]. *C. fabianii* can easily be misidentified as *C. utilis* by Vitek-2 YST ID (bioMérieux) with high probability and as *C. pelliculosa* by API 20C AUX (bioMérieux) or API 32C (bioMérieux) because these commercial identification kit profiles do not include *C. fabianii* and its biochemical profile is similar to *Candida* species.

The case reports of *C. fabianii* causing various infections confirmed through molecular test have increased during the last few years. Fluconazole treatment for *C. fabianii* in literature was reported as ineffective due to higher minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) while presumably a proportion of *C. utilis* and *C. pelliculosa* identified by commercial kits could actually be *C.*  *fabianii* if molecular methods were used [6]. As molecular identification in clinical laboratories is becoming more widespread, cases of *C. fabianii* infection could be more frequently found. Also, *C. pelliculosa* or *C. utilis* isolated from critical specimens should be confirmed with molecular identification methods.

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=국문초록=

## 분자진단을 이용한 더 많은 침습성 *Cyberlindera fabianii* 감염의 발견 가능성

## 경희대학교 의학전문대학원 진단검사의학교실

김영진, 양정석, 이희주

Cyberlindera fabianii에 의한 진균혈증 1예가 Annals of Clinical Microbiology 최근 호에 보고되었다. 드물게 침습적 감염의 원인으로 보고되는 *C. fabianii*는 Vitek-2 YST ID (bioMérieux, USA)에서는 *Candida utilis*로, by API kit (bioMérieux, USA)에서는 *Candida pelliculosa*로 높은 확률로 동정될 수 있다. 최근 우리 또한 API 20C Aux (bioMérieux, USA)에서 *C. pelliculosa*로 오인된 *C. fabianii*에 의한 진균혈증을 경험하였다. 분자 동정이 더 보편화 됨에 따라 *C. fabianii*에 의한 감염은 더 자주 발견 될 수 있을 것으로 보인다. [Ann Clin Microbiol 2015;18:133-134]

교신저자 : 이희주, 02447, 서울시 동대문구 경희대로 23 경희대학교 의학전문대학원 경희대학교병원 진단검사의학교실 Tel: 02-958-8672, Fax: 02-958-8609 E-mail: leehejo@khmc.or.kr