

Question 44 – Week of June 10

48 year old male presents with history of cirrhosis due to hepatitis C and alcohol presents with severe lower extremity pain, fevers, and dizziness. He works in a seafood restaurant, and frequently eats seafood including oysters. His exam was notable for tachycardia and hypotension. Lower skin extremity exam revealed violaceous, geographic purpura lesions over the anterior and posterior surfaces of his legs that progressed to the inner thighs bilaterally.

What is the most likely cause of his leg lesions and sepsis?

- A. *Vibrio cholerae*
- B. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*
- C. *Vibrio vulnificus*
- D. *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- E. *Streptococcus pyogenes*

Answer: C

V. vulnificus is a classic cause of sepsis, especially from necrotizing fasciitis, in cirrhotics who eat oysters.

References:

Muldrew KL, et al. Necrotizing Fasciitis from *Vibrio vulnificus* in a Patient with Undiagnosed Hepatitis and Cirrhosis. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2007 March; 45(3): 1058–1062.

Lee CH, et al. Necrotising fasciitis caused by *Vibrio vulnificus* in a man with cirrhosis. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2008 Jun;8(6):399.