

On day 1, she was administered with parenteral antibiotics such as Cefotaxime (1 gm) and Gentamicin (80 mg) 12 hourly along with Tablet Acetaminophen (500 mg, thrice daily). The tenderness and warmth was sustained on the right breast on day 2 as well, thus indicating the need for adding additional drugs to the existing prescription of day 1 and the same was continued for the next six days. The medications prescribed were, a combination of Piperacillin and Tazobactam (4.5 mg, Intravenous (IV) bolus, bd), Tablet Metronidazole (400 mg, tid), Tablet Ibuprofen (200 mg, bd), Tablet Ranitidine (150 mg, bd), Tablet Ferrous sulphate (333 mg, od), Tablet Vitamin B complex (vitamin B1-2 mg, vitamin B2-2 mg, niacinamide - 25 mg, and calcium - 1 mg) od, Tablet Calcium (150 mg, od) and IV infusion of ringer lactate (500 ml) at the rate of 100 ml/h. Hot fermentation was also recommended.

On day 8, the abscess due to pus accumulation on the right breast was confirmed by ultrasonography. A surgical incision and drainage was performed to remove the pus. After surgery, the same antibiotics along with Tablet Diclofenac (50 mg, bd) and Capsule Omeprazole (25 mg, bd) were given to the patient and continued for four days with hot fermentation and tight dressing for effective milk removal.

Patient was doing better and was trained on self-dressing of the incision area, proper positioning of baby and warm compressions. She was re-emphasized about the need of feeding the baby regularly and counseled to take sufficient fluid, to wash hands before feeding after a nappy change, to wear loose comfortable clothing and to take enough rest. She was discharged on the 12th day with the prescription of oral medications such as Omeprazole (25 mg, bd), Diclofenac (50 mg, bd, sos) and Vitamin B complex for 15 days.

DISCUSSION

The age of the patient and the history of use of oral contraceptives were identified as predisposing factors of mastitis in this patient. The hormonal changes associated with the use of oral contraceptives may cause accumulation of debris and dead skin cells in the milk ducts and may lead to the occurrence of bacterial infections, 21-35 years is the common age for mastitis.^{4-6,7} Patient admitted that, she often had long gaps between feeds and missed feeding because of her job schedule. This might have caused milk stasis and milk accumulation, promoted the growth of microorganism, which later developed to infectious mastitis.

The symptomatic management, effective milk removal,

Table 1: Laboratory investigation report.

Clinical Parameters	Result obtained	Normal range
Hemoglobin	13.8 g/dL	12-16 g/dL
Bleeding time	2'00" min	<5 min
Clotting time	4'00" min	5-9 min
Differential count (DC)		
Polymorphs	71%	54-62%
Lymphocytes	19%	25-33%
Monocytes	10%	3-7%
Urine Analysis		
Urine albumin	++	Nil
Pus cells	1-2 pc/hpf	1/2/hpf
Epithelial pus cells	4-5 epc/hpf	1/2/hpf

antibiotics and effective counseling was recommended for the treatment for mastitis by WHO.⁸ As the patient had the symptoms such as pain and fever, analgesics such as Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen and Diclofenac were prescribed. The anti-inflammatory analgesic Ibuprofen (maximum dose up to 1.6 g/day) and Acetaminophen were found to be compatible during lactating period.^{8,9} The patient was exposed with four different parenteral antibiotics to cover the spectrum of microbes which causes mastitis, as there was limited facilities available in the hospital to perform culture and sensitivity investigations. However, the prescription of antibiotics such as Cefotaxime (safe up to 2 g/day), Gentamicin (safe up to 7 mg/kg/day), Piperacillin- Tazobactam combination (4.5 mg, bd) and Metronidazole (500 mg, tid) for treating mastitis were found to be in accordance with National treatment guidelines for antimicrobial use in infectious disease (version 1.0) by Government of INDIA.¹⁰ As the poor nutritional status is one of the predisposing factors for mastitis, patient was provided with Vitamin and Ferrous sulphate tablets to maintain a good nutritional status.¹¹ Similarly, hot fermentation was suggested to stimulate the oxytocin reflex and milk production.¹²

In this case, ultrasound was not performed to recognize large breast abscess until the day 8 to confirm breast abscess. When it recognized, the abscess was found to be very large and immediately surgical drainage was performed instead of needle aspiration, which was in accordance with the Academy of Breast feeding Medicine clinical protocol, Australia, which suggests that, breast feeding should be continued even after surgery in such a way that the mouth of baby does not touch the drain.¹³ The discontinuation of breast feeding and improper infant nutrition is a common trend observed among the lactating women with mastitis due to the misconception of spreading infection.¹ The uncorrected and poor

breastfeeding techniques might be the reason for recurrence of mastitis in this case.⁷⁻¹²⁻¹⁴ Thus, the patient was reemphasized to improve milk feeding frequency and provided with emotional support and reassurance.

CONCLUSION

The long gaps, missed feeding, and uncorrected or poor breastfeeding techniques led to recurrence of mastitis in this patient. The treatment pattern followed was found to be in accordance with WHO treatment guidelines for mastitis, ABM protocol committee, Australia and National treatment guidelines for antimicrobial use in infectious disease (version 1.0, 2016) by Government of INDIA. The patient was counseled about supportive measurement and re-emphasized regarding frequent breast feeding. The recurrence of mastitis observed in this patient emphasized that it is essential to conduct counseling programs for pregnant and lactating women to identify and resolve the predisposing factors of mastitis which in turn decrease the incidence of breastfeeding disorders.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors acknowledge the support provided by the Government Headquarters Hospital, Udhagamandalam.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

IV: Intravenous; BD: twice daily; TID: thrice daily; OD: once daily; WHO: World Health organization; ABM: Academy of breastfeeding medicine.

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