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SCIENTIFIC LETTER

Pertussis-like Syndrome Caused by *Acinetobacter pittii* ST119

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To the Editor: Pertussis-like syndrome is a severe infectious respiratory disorder which might have the symptoms mimicking pertussis, including paroxysmal cough, inspiratory whoop, or post-cough vomiting [1]. The pathogens of pertussis-like syndrome mainly include *Respiratory syncytial virus*, *Adenovirus*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, or *Streptococcus pneumonia* [2]. Here we presente one case with pertussis-like syndrome caused by *Acinetobacter pittii*.

A 7-mo-old girl came to our hospital for persistent spasmodic cough over 2 wk after a journey. The capillary blood count (CBC) showed that white blood count (WBC) was 31.88×10^9/L and lymphocyte percentage was 72.7%. The serum C-reaction protein level was normal. Chest X-ray was not performed. She had taken three shots of DPT vaccine before. From the clinical findings, a diagnosis of pertussis-like syndrome was made. A throat swab specimen culture was done before starting antibiotics. *Acinetobacter baumannii* complex was detected and multilocus sequence typing (MLST) analyses were performed according to Pasteur scheme. The typing result showed the isolate was *A. pittii* ST119. The antimicrobial susceptibility test showed that it was sensitive to most common antibiotics except ceftriaxone. Azithromycin was given orally once a day (10 mg/kg) for 5 d. The cough symptom relieved gradually. The WBC turned to normal on follow-ups.

A. pittii is considered a pathogen of nosocomial infection, especially in intensive care units. It is seldom reported to give rise to community acquired infections. *A. pittii* is reported to cause cavitary pneumonia in a French patient with lupus [3]. *A. pittii* infections were also found in some COVID-19 patients [4]. However, our study was the first report to link pertussis-like syndrome to *A. pittii* ST119. To disclose the mechanism of *A. pittii* ST119 causing pertussis-like syndrome, further research is needed.

Declarations

Conflict of Interest None.

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