

ETIOLOGY OF LIVER ABSCESS IN HOSPITAL TUANKU FAUZIAH, PERLIS

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Introduction: While 80% of liver abscesses in the US are pyogenic, amoebic abscess accounts for a large proportion of cases in tropical countries, including Malaysia. Among the cases of pyogenic liver abscesses, *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* account for the majority of cases. However, based on our experience, many cases in HTF, Perlis are due to *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. We aim to verify this observation and provide local data on the etiology of liver abscess. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional retrospective study whereby the study population is identified by going through all the ultrasonography and CT scan reports done in HTF, Perlis from 1st January to 31st December 2017. Cases which were recognized to have liver abscess would then have their case notes traced and relevant information extracted. **Results:** A total of 22 cases were identified. 21 cases were pyogenic while one case was tuberculous. There were no amoebic liver abscesses. 44% of the pyogenic abscesses (11 cases) yielded pathogens. The most common organism was *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (4 Cases) followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (3 cases). We noted that all the liver abscesses which yielded *Burkholderia pseudomallei* were multiple/disseminated in distribution. **Discussion/Conclusion:** A significant proportion of the liver abscesses in HTF were attributed to *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. This variation may be explained by soil exposure and the high prevalence of diabetes mellitus (50% of our cases were diabetic). Hence, based on our local prevalence data, Ceftriaxone (the first choice of antibiotics for melioidosis) seem to be a sensible empirical choice, especially if there are multiple/disseminated abscesses.