

Trichosporon cutaneum C.A.P.D. peritonitis

Sir,
Fungal peritonitis is an infrequent complication of continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (C.A.P.D.) therapy accounting for 2–7% of episodes of peritonitis. *Trichosporon* species are rare causes of fungal peritonitis.^{1,2} A 62 year old woman developed end stage renal failure requiring dialysis. C.A.P.D. was initiated and intraperitoneal cefuroxime and cloxacillin were administered prophylactically for 5 days. Three weeks later the peritoneal effluent became cloudy. The patient had no abdominal pain but was febrile (temperature 38°C). A peritoneal fluid sample revealed a white cell count of 0.75×10^9 cells/l and no organisms on Gram stain. Culture of the fluid was positive after 24 hours for *Trichosporon cutaneum* (API 20C Auxanogram). The patient commenced 6 hourly, 2 litre exchanges with miconazole (100 mg/l) plus oral ketoconazole (200 mg/day). Four days after the original positive culture the fluid was still cloudy; the Tenckhoff catheter was removed and immediately replaced by a temporary peritoneal catheter. Thereafter 2 hourly 1 litre exchanges were performed. The peritoneal fluid cleared within two days. Subsequently a new Tenckhoff catheter was inserted and antifungal therapy resumed for a further 12 days. Efforts to establish the source of the fungus were unsuccessful.

Trichosporon cutaneum has been isolated from urine, throat and sputum specimens of normal individuals and is often regarded as a contaminant. In the immunocompromised host it has been shown to be pathogenic.³ We report a further case of trichosporon peritonitis in a C.A.P.D. patient. The development of peritonitis may have been abetted by the antimicrobial therapy given routinely after insertion of the C.A.P.D. catheter.

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References

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Accidents among elderly shoppers

Sir,
An 83 year old lady was admitted to our unit with acute confusion and multiple soft tissue injuries, having fallen down an escalator in a Cardiff city centre department store. This incident aroused our interest in accidents involving elderly people in this setting but we could find no study addressing the problem. Under the Notification of Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (1980),¹ department stores are obliged to report major accidents to the Health and Safety Executive and many stores keep a record of all accidents involving customers and staff. We undertook a survey to assess the prevalence and outcome of accidents in department stores in Cardiff and to identify possible risk factors. With the support of the local Chamber of Trade, we sent a questionnaire to the seven biggest department stores in Cardiff regarding their number of customers and number of accidents during 1985 and sought detailed information on accidents involving people aged over 65 years.

All of the stores responded. The number of customers in individual stores ranged from 71,500 to 7,500,000 and the total number approximated 15,125,000. It was estimated that between 5% and 15% of customers were aged over 65 years. The total number of accidents was 190, giving an overall accident rate of 1.26 per 100,000 customers. Elderly people were overrepresented among the casualties, accounting for 74 accidents (38.9% of the total). Twenty one casualties were aged over 75 years and 3 were over 85 years. The accident rate in individual stores ranged from 0.73 to 17.3 per 100,000. Figure 1 illustrates a negative correlation between the number of customers visiting stores and the accident rate. This could be explained by the larger stores having higher safety standards or by the less busy stores being more frequented by accident-prone elderly people. The monthly incidence of accidents among older customers showed no seasonal variation suggesting that elderly people avoid visiting stores during the peak shopping months of December and January. Ten accidents (13.5%) in people over 65 years occurred on stairs and a further 10 occurred on escalators. Eleven elderly people (14.9%) were referred directly to

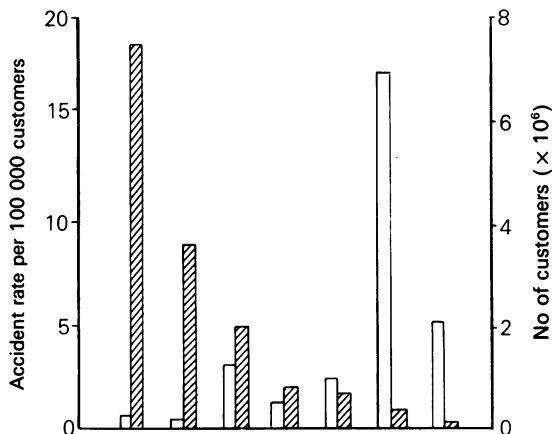


Figure 1 Number of customers (\square) and accident rate per 100,000 customers (\boxtimes) in individual stores.