Mycobacterium Senuense infection in the hand of a chef, transmitted from pig meat

Torbjörn Vedung, MD, PhD
Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery and Hand Surgery
Uppsala University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden

Objectives
• The bacteria was later found in slaughter pigs in Uganda, Africa. Non-tuberculous mycobacteria isolated from slaughter pigs in Mubende district, Uganda. Muwonge et al. BMC Vet Res. 2012 May 7;8:52.
• *Senuense*, is an arbitrary name formed from the initial letters of Seoul National University, the organization that carried out the taxonomic investigation of the type strain.

Methods
• A middle aged chef accidentally cut herself in the left long finger while preparing pork fillet in May 2016.
• A fast growing lump appeared in the volar aspect of the finger.
• In November 2016 the lump impaired finger flexion significantly.

The infection was probably transmitted from pork meat. The flexor tendon sheath was infiltrated and destroyed by the infection.

It was impossible to define and spare the tendon sheath, causing an obvious risk for bow-stringing. However, the flexor tendons were relatively intact.

Oral antibiotics (double therapy) for 6 months

Result: Treated with external rings with gratifying result

Conclusions
M. Senuense is a newly identified mycobacterium that can be found in pigs, and probably can be transmitted to humans through wounds.

Correspondence: torbjorn.vedung@surgsci.uu.se