**Introduction**

- **Mycobacterium abscessus** is a rapidly growing mycobacterium (RGM) that is ubiquitous in soil and water.
- There have been an increasing number of skin and soft tissue infections with *M. abscessus* arising from the use of improperly sterilized water and equipment during surgical procedures.
- Here we present a case of macrolide resistance *Mycobacterium abscessus* presenting as a soft tissue infection of a patient who underwent a Brazilian butt lift in the Dominican Republic.

**Case Presentation**

- A 40 year old female presented for evaluation of soft tissue infection. She had undergone a Brazilian butt lift in the Dominican Republic 3 months prior.
- She complained of boils, draining abscesses, and pain in her bilateral buttocks.
- She underwent an incision and drainage of one of the abscesses with wound cultures growing 2+ *Mycobacterium abscessus* that was macrolide resistant.
- She received 8 weeks of induction therapy with Imipenem, Amikacin, and Linezolid, following which time she was transitioned to Omadacycline and Clofamazine. At 12 week follow-up, her skin lesions had improved.

**Relevant Laboratory Data**

- At first ED appearance in Jan. 2023:
  - WBC 7.8
- At first outpatient encounter in Feb 2023:
  - WBC 10.1, CRP 10.3, ESR 38

**Discussion**

- *Mycobacterium abscessus complex* (MABC) represents a group of non-tuberculous mycobacterium (NTM) that comprises three subspecies: *M. abscessus subsp. abscessus*, *M. abscessus subsp. bolletii*, and *M. abscessus subsp. Massiliense*.
- While pulmonary infection with MABC is most common, recently skin and soft tissue infections (SSTI) have been increasing due to contamination of surgical instrumentation.
- Treatment is difficult due to bacterial resistance to standard anti-tuberculosis agents as the *abscessus* subspecies contain a functional erythromycin resistance methylase (*erm*) gene, which causes inducible resistance to macrolides (1).
- Source control is important: drainage of all abscesses and removal of any infected foreign bodies.

**Conclusion**

- An increasing number of SSTIs caused by *M. abscessus* have been reported in cases of medical tourism after cosmetic or surgical procedures.
- With an estimated 1.4 million Americans traveling overseas each year for medical treatment, the ability to recognize SSTI with *M. abscessus* has become critical as delayed initiation of treatment can have devastating consequences.

**References**