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## Letter to the Editor

### Microorganisms Isolated from Blood Cultures of Febrile Neutropenic Patients in İbn-i Sina Hospital (2003;20(4):227-31)

#### To the Editor,

We have read with interest Akan's paper about the microorganisms isolated from blood cultures of neutropenic patients in Ankara University İbn-i Sina Hospital hematology unit<sup>[1]</sup>. Akan also compared the results with different studies from Turkey. We think that our department results may provide some contribution.

In our prospective study we evaluated the rate of the isolated organisms in 98 febrile episodes of the patients with neutropenia due to hematological disorders or chemotherapy in 1996-1997<sup>[2]</sup>. Central venous catheter was used in (67%) 66 out of 98 febrile episodes. The causative agent wasn't isolated in 46% (45/98) of febrile episodes. The rate of isolation of gram-positives was 69%. Coagulase-negative staphylococci (54%) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (39%) were the most frequently isolated organisms among gram-positives. *Escherichia coli* (61%) and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (22%) were also the most frequent isolates among gram-negatives. More than one microorganism was isolated in 24 febrile episodes.

To evaluate the clinical success rate with cefepime and amikacin combination in neutropenic patients with hematological malignancies our clinical trial was done in 1997-1999<sup>[3]</sup>. In this trial, limited number febrile episodes (n= 28) were evaluated. Central of venous catheter was used in

82% of episodes. Microbiological or clinical cause was not found in 13 (46%) of the febrile episodes. The rate of isolation of gram-positives was 60%. *S. aureus* (47%) was the most frequently isolated organisms among gram-positives. *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella rhinoscleromatis*, *Providencia rettgeri* were the isolates of gram-negatives.

#### REFERENCES

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