

Detection of bacteria by FISH in culture-negative soft tissue filler lesions

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Background. Adverse reactions to polyacrylamide gel are seen as swellings or nodules, and controversy exists whether these are due to bacterial infection or an autoimmune reaction to the filler.

Objective. Biopsies from culture-negative long-lasting nodules following injection with different types of polyacrylamide gel were examined with Gram stain and fluorescence in situ hybridization.

Results. Bacteria were detected in biopsies from 7 of 8 patients. They inhabited both gel and intervening tissue and tended to lie in aggregates.

Conclusion. The study supports the assumption that culture-negative late adverse reactions to polyacrylamide gel are caused by infection with bacteria in aggregates, suggesting a biofilm environment.



4 days after steroid



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