

Special Issue

Epidemiology, Evaluation, and Treatment of Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection

Message from the Guest Editors

Necrotizing soft tissue infection (NSTI) is a severe, rapidly progressing, necrotic bacterial infection involving the soft tissues of the body. Aptly described as the “flesh-eating bacterial infection”, this disease has a long and storied history. It was described by Hippocrates around the 5th century BC as a disease in which *“many were attacked by the erysipelas all over the body when the exciting cause was a trivial accident flesh, sinews, and bones fell away in large quantities there were many deaths”*. It has been variously named “hospital gangrene”, Fournier’s gangrene, and necrotizing fasciitis. Despite the recognition of the disease many millennia ago, NSTI remains a devastating disease with extremely high morbidity and mortality. Its incidence is increasing globally. In the treatment of necrotizing soft tissue infection, the most important predictor of outcome is time: time to diagnosis, surgical debridement, and the initiation of antibiotic therapy.

Dr. Christine E. Nembhard

Guest Editors

Dr. John O. Hwabejire

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Hassan N. Mashbari

1. Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

2. Department of Surgery, Jazan University, Jazan, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Christine E. Nembhard

Howard University Hospital, Washington, DC, USA

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Editorial Office

MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5

4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Edgaras Stankevičius
Medical Academy, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas,
Lithuania

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