

***Klebsiella pneumoniae* in a patient with hoarseness and dysphagia rather than pharyngitis**

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The case described by Yeh et al. in this journal is certainly unusual but the term “pharyngitis” should not have been used. Pharyngitis has been defined as sore throat, fever, and pharyngeal inflammation characterized by erythema and edema; exudates, vesicles and ulcerations may also be present [1]. Many authors have also counted enlarged or tender lymph nodes among the symptoms [2]. The patient in question, however, did not show any of them, but rather hoarseness and dysphagia, all of which pointed to a space-occupying lesion in the *hypopharyngeal* area. There was no mention of a throat culture, the usual means of a bacteriological diagnosis of pharyngitis [3].

This is more than a semantic issue because *Klebsiella pneumoniae* has so far not been reported as an agent of uncomplicated pharyngitis [1] and should not be looked for in routine throat cultures. The case report presented ought

not to lead to requests for isolation of enterobacteriaceae (*Yersinia enterocolitica* excepted) in throat cultures in patients with pharyngitis.

Conflict of interest None.

References

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