Abstract Form

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Project Title:	Rare Case of Streptococcus Equi Zoonotic Infection in Patient with HIV/AIDs

Research Category (please check one):

☐	**Original Research**	☒	**Clinical Vignette**	☐	**Quality Improvement**	☐	**Medical Education Innovation**

Abstract

Introduction: Streptococcus equi subspecies are classically known as equine pathogens but have also been found to be an uncommon cause of zoonotic infections in immunocompromised individuals. Animal exposure, particularly horses, and consumption of unpasteurized dairy products are typical sources for outbreaks, and patients infected with S. equi subspecies frequently have significant underlying comorbid conditions.

Case Report: We report a rare case of successfully treated bacteremia and presumed endocarditis in a 34-year-old immunocompromised patient with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) complicated by acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). He was initially admitted following outpatient evaluation for chronic constitutional symptoms and was found to have blood cultures confirming β-hemolytic Group C streptococci presumed to be either S. equi subspecies ruminatorum or zooepidemicus . Of note our patient had been compliant with his outpatient antiretroviral therapy medications and had a negative HIV viral load at the time of admission. Two possible sources were identified as our patient had known exposures to horse hair and unpasteurized cheese in recent months. Following an uncomplicated hospital stay, he was discharged home to complete a four-week course of antibiotics with a resolution of his symptoms.

Discussion: Existing data on S. Equi infections suggest immunocompromised individuals to be at both increased risk of infection and have increased mortality rates. Our literature review revealed two prior cases of S. equi infections in patients with HIV. However, both prior patients had notably a more extensive hospital course with one key distinguishing feature being the HIV viral loads. This case not only highlights the importance of a thorough exposure history for S. equi infections but also suggests the possibility of a negative HIV viral load being a positive prognostic factor.