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Necrotising Fasciitis- The Current Scenario

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Necrotizing fasciitis (NF) is a rapidly progressive soft tissue infection involving subcutaneous tissue up to the fascia that easily spreads along the fascial planes resulting in local soft tissue necrosis and life threatening severe sepsis. It is characterised by a fulminant course with a high morbidity and mortality. Jones, who first described NF, reported a mortality rate of 46% but recent studies have reported the mortality rates in the range of 16-24%. The aetiology is not fully understood, but most of these patients have some underlying pre-disposing factors which makes them vulnerable to infection. Most studies have revealed a polymicrobial nature of the disease with most cultures yielding a mixture of aerobes, anaerobes and facultative anaerobes. Infection with single organism is reported in about 15% of cases.

Early recognition may be difficult as the disease is often clinically indistinguishable from other soft tissue infections early in the course of its evolution. Knowledge of all available tools is a key for an early accurate diagnosis. The laboratory risk indicator score can be useful for differentiating it from cases of cellulitis which can be managed by antimicrobial therapy alone. The mainstay of treatment is early complete surgical debridement with broad spectrum antibiotics, physiological support and a close intensive monitoring. Novel treatment strategies like hyperbaric Oxygen and Intravenous immunoglobulins have been proposed but their role still remains debatable.

Biography:

Dr. Deepak Ghuliani presently working as a Professor of Surgery at Maulana Azad Medical College, India. He has a vast experience in all types of elective and emergency surgeries involving various subspecialties like general surgery, endocrine & breast surgery, gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary including oncology. Besides clinical practice he has a passion for teaching and all types of academic activities. He has several publications in National and International journals. Recently he has become the Fellow of American College of Surgeons. Working as Professor of Surgery not only is he conducting research and teaching undergraduate and postgraduate medical students but also actively involved in conferences, CME's, skills workshops, updates in the role of speaker, chairperson, judge, trainer and also a quiz master.