

- What is the patient's name?

John Doe

- Male or female?

Male.

- Age?

He is 55.

- Have you obtained positive cultures indicating general type?

Yes.

- What type of infection is it?

Primary Bacteremia.

- When did symptoms first appear?

May 5.

- Let's call the most recent positive culture CULTURE-1. From what site was CULTURE-1 taken?

From the blood.

- When?

May 9.

- Let's call the first significant organism from this culture ORGANISM-1. Do you know the identity of ORGANISM-1?

No.

- Is ORGANISM-1 a rod or a coccus or something else?

Rod.

- What is the gram stain of ORGANISM-1?

Gram-negative.

- Have there been positive cultures from sites that are not associated with infections about which you are seeking advice?

No.

- Did ORGANISM-1 grow aerobically?

Yes.

- Did ORGANISM-1 grow anaerobically?

Yes.

- What is the suspected portal of entry of ORGANISM-1?

The gastrointestinal tract.

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When satisfied that it has a reasonably good grasp of the situation, MYCIN starts a short line of questions in preparation for recommending a course of treatment:

- My recommendation will be based on the opinion that the identity of ORGANISM-1 may be 1. Pseudomonas-aeruginosa 2. Klebsiella-pneumoniae 3. E. Coli 4. Bacteroides-fragilis 5. Enterobacter or 6. Proteus-non-mirabilis.

- On a scale of 0 to 4, where higher numbers indicate greater severity, how would you rate the patient's degree of sickness?

3.

- Does the patient have a clinically significant allergic reaction to any antimicrobial agent?

No.

- How much does the patient weigh?

70 kilograms.

- My first recommendation is as follows: In order to cover for items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, give gentamycin using a dose of 119 mg (1.7 mg/kg) q8h IV [or IM] for 10 days. Modify dose in renal failure. And in order to cover for item 4, give clindamycin using a dose of 595 mg (8.5 mg/kg) q6h IV [or IM] for 14 days. If diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms develop, check for pseudomembranous colitis.