

# Post-operative *Capnocytophaga Sputigena* Presenting as Diffuse Recalcitrant Intra-abdominal Abscesses: A Case Report

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## BACKGROUND:

- Cesarean section has a number of potential complications:
  - iatrogenic surgical injury
  - thromboembolic events
  - infection of endometrium, pelvis, or urinary tract
- The incidence of post-cesarean pelvic abscess with antibiotic prophylaxis is less than 10%, and most often caused by *Staphylococcus* species.
- *Capnocytophaga Sputigena* is rarely implicated as the cause of intra-abdominal abscess because it is almost exclusively found in oral flora, and therefore more commonly associated with bite wounds.

## CASE PRESENTATION:

We report a case of a young female 3 weeks status post uncomplicated cesarean section who presented with multiple intra-abdominal abscesses recalcitrant to percutaneous drainage, and eventually required surgical exploration and drainage.

- A 19-year-old female presented after an uncomplicated C-section with complaint of abdominal discomfort and fevers.
- Imaging revealed multiple intra-abdominal fluid collections concerning for infection, and she underwent percutaneous drainage.
- Cultures revealed the presence of ***Capnocytophaga Sputigena***.
- Percutaneous drainage was unable to provide significant source control, with the collections persisting despite multiple well-sited drains and aggressive intravenous antibiotic therapy.
- She underwent surgical exploration with a multi-specialty team of obstetric and acute care surgeons, and the collections were successfully drained.
- She has recovered well from surgery.
- Of note, given the nature of *C. sputigena* as oral flora most commonly in animals, further inquiry was made into the immediate postoperative period following cesarian section and the patient's home environment. The patient reports numerous dogs, which typically sleep in bed with her and her spouse, rest their heads upon her abdomen.



## DISCUSSION:

- Post surgical pelvic abscesses are rarely due to *Capnocytophaga Sputigena*, however this organism has been documented to serve as a source of aggressive intra-abdominal infection.
- Factors such as contamination of surgical sites and an immunocompromised postpartum state can augment the potential for this unusual etiology.

**Key Point:** *Capnocytophaga*, although rare, has been implicated in aggressive post-surgical intra-abdominal infection and should be considered as a possible etiology

