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Clostridium Infections Associated with Musculoskeletal Tissue Allografts

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ABSTRACT

Background Allografts are commonly used in orthopedic reconstructive surgery. In 2001, approximately 875,000 musculoskeletal allografts were distributed by U.S. tissue banks. After the death from *Clostridium sordellii* sepsis of a 23-year-old man who had received a contaminated allograft from a tissue bank (Tissue Bank A), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiated an investigation, including enhanced case finding, of the methods used for the recovery, processing, and testing of tissue.

Methods A case of allograft-associated clostridium infection was defined as a culture-proven infection of a surgical site within one year after allograft implantation, from January 1998 to March 2002. We traced tissues to tissue banks that recovered and processed these tissues. We also estimated the rates of and risk ratios for clostridium infections for tissues processed by the implicated tissue bank and reviewed processing and testing methods used by various tissue banks.

Results Fourteen patients were identified, all of whom had received allografts processed by Tissue Bank A. The rates of clostridium infection were 0.12 percent among patients who received sports-medicine

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