

Abstract

A prospective study was carried out to demonstrate the bacteriology of post-traumatic bone infections with particular attention to the role of anaerobic microorganisms. Compound fracture was found to be the most common predisposing factor for infection. Seventy-seven patients were studied and a total of 155 organisms was recovered (117 aerobes and 38 anaerobes). The most frequently isolated organisms were *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and klebsiella species. Bacteroides spp and peptostreptococcus spp were the most common anaerobes isolated from 29 patients (37.7%). In five patients, anaerobes were the only organisms isolated (6.5% of total cases). It is concluded from this study that anaerobic bacteria play a role in post-traumatic osteomyelitis and routine anaerobic culture for all cases is recommended.