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REVIEW ON TULAREMIA: A RARE DISEASE

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ABSTRACT

Tularemia is a bacterial infection caused by bacterium Francisella tularenesis. It is a gram negative, aerobic, pleomorphic bacillus which lives in wild and domestic animals like rabbits and can be transmitted to humans via contact with animal tissues, fleas, deerflies or ticks. There is no human to human transmission. It is also called as 'Rabbit fever' or 'Deer fly fever'. Tularemia was first been reported in turkey in 1936, it was used in biological warfare in Neshite – Arzawan conflict in 1320 – 1318 BC. Types of tularemia include Ulceroglandular, Oculoglandular, Pneumonic, Typhoidal and the symptoms include fever, chills, fatigue, ulcers, throat pain, redness and discharge from eye. Tularemia is mostly caused due to insect bites, exposure to sick or dead animals, air borne diseases, contaminated food and water. Chest radiography, ultrasonography, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and ELISA are the diagnostic tests. Edward Francis was the first person who studied epidemiology of the disease in humans, initially he used the term "Tularemia". Males are more prone to this disease. Cases of male-female ratio are 2:5:1. Pathophysiology confines, F tularensis enters into the macrophages through phagocytosis and apoptosis of host cell occurs. Antibiotics like Streptomycin, ciprofloxacin or doxycycline are used for 2 weeks as treatment. Tularemia can be prevented by using tick repellents and handling the infected animals.

KEYWORDS: Tularemia, Rabbit fever, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR), Phagocytosis, Streptomycin.

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