M. Chimaera in heater cooler devices

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Since 2014 several infections with non-tuberculous Mycobacteria (Mycobacterium Chimaera) have been associated with the use of heater-cooler devices during cardiothoracic in different EU countries and in the USA. Infections have been detected after a few months and up to five years after surgery. Bacterial contamination of heater-cooler devices have also been described without any associated patient infection.

In many centres it has been a challenging task to eliminate the nontuberculous Mycobacteria from the heater-cooler devices in order to reduce the risk to patients.

In this case-report we describe how we managed to go from positive heater cooler water culture results, to negative results for M. Chimaera by changing the cleaning procedure of the Sorin Group Heater-Cooler System T3 (HCU-T3).

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