Asian ‘Superbug’ causes trouble worldwide

Daniel Zimmermann

HONG KONG/LEIPZIG, Germany: The emergence of a bacteria-resistant genetic mutation in Asia and other countries is posing a significant threat to global health, a report states. According to their study published in the current issue of the journal, evidence of increased prevalence of a gene that makes bacteria resistant to antibiotics was detected in India, Pakistan and the UK. The researchers called for co-ordinated international surveillance of the enzyme to prevent its spread through medical and dental tourism.

New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM-1), which was first identified by UK Professor Tim Walsh in a hospital in India last year, has been found to be resistant in a wide range of antibiotics including penicillin and amoxicillin which are commonly used after dental procedures. In addition, it also affects the efficiency of carbapenems, a group of antibiotics reserved for use in emergencies when other antibiotics have failed.

Prof. Walsh told the New Scientist that due to travelling and medical tourism throughout the region, bacterial mutations like NDM-1 increasingly find their way from India and Pakistan to other countries. He said meanwhile the gene has been turning up from being rarely observed just a few years ago to in between 1 and 3 per cent of all infections involving Enterobacteriaceae. Mutated genes have been recently isolated, for example, in the United States, Sweden, Turkey, Israel, Greece, and the UK, he said.

Infectious disease experts have warned clinicians to be increasingly aware of this risk factor when carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae are identified in their country.

Dentist seeks US class action suit vs Nobel Biocare

STOCKHOLM - Swiss dental implant maker Nobel Biocare has been sued by a California dentist seeking class-action status on behalf of dentists whose patients have suffered complications such as bone loss from one of its products.

A company spokesman said on Monday the Nobel Direct dental implant was safe and that Nobel Biocare (NBN.VX) would fight the lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. District court in Los Angeles.

The suit by Jason M Yamada seeks compensation for dentists who have had to perform surgery on their patients, or pay for restorative surgery, after complications from the implants, which it said were defectively designed. “Because of Nobel’s practices, plaintiff and the class members now face a flood of complaints from injured dental patients who have needed, and will need, immediate intervention to remove defective implants in a timely manner,” the suit said.

The suit by Jason M Yamada, a dentist seeking class-action status, was filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

The suit claims that Nobel Biocare, a leading provider of dental implants, was negligent in failing to properly warn or train dentists about the risks associated with the implants. The suit alleges that Nobel Biocare failed to conduct proper research and testing on the implants, and that the company knew or should have known about the risks but failed to warn consumers.

The suit also claims that Nobel Biocare failed to provide adequate instructions and warnings for the use of the implants, and that the company knew or should have known about the risks associated with the implants but failed to adequately inform consumers.

The suit seeks damages for breach of warranty, negligence, and strict liability.

Nobel Biocare said it was committed to providing safe and effective products to dentists and their patients. The company said it had invested millions of dollars in research and development to improve the safety and effectiveness of its products.

The suit is one of many class-action lawsuits filed against Nobel Biocare in recent years. The company has faced numerous complaints from patients and dentists about the safety and effectiveness of its implants.

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The lawsuits also claim that Nobel Biocare failed to conduct proper research and testing on the implants, and that the company knew or should have known about the risks but failed to warn consumers.

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The lawsuits are a reflection of the growing concern among patients and dentists about the safety and effectiveness of dental implants. The lawsuits claim that Nobel Biocare was negligent in failing to properly warn or train dentists about the risks associated with the implants.

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