7. Limaye AP, Bakthavatsalam R, Kim HW, et al. Cerebrovascular complications, and only one factor for symptomatic and asymptomatic valvular vegetation was identified as a risk factor for ischemic strokes [6]. In a recent comparative analysis published by our group [6], we retrospectively analyzed the medical literature on published cases of endocarditis due to Candida parapsilosis and endocarditis due to Candida albicans. We found that 17 (26.6%) of 64 patients with left-sided endocarditis due to C. parapsilosis experienced symptomatic cerebrovascular complications. Seven patients had intracranial hemorrhage, and 10 patients experienced ischemic strokes [6].

In addition, we suspect that the association reported by Snygg-Martin et al. [1] of symptomatic cerebrovascular complications with S. aureus infection only, as well as their finding of a high number of cerebrovascular complications, might be attributable to the small number of patients included in their study. It would be very interesting to perform a multicenter clinical trial to achieve a larger patient sample that would include more cases due to gram-negative bacteria and fungi. This could help us to better establish the relationship between the microbiological etiology of infective endocarditis and the risk of symptomatic and asymptomatic cerebrovascular complications.

Acknowledgments


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References


Reply to Garbino and Ambrosioni

To the Editor—We thank Garbino and Ambrosioni [1] for their interest in our study of cerebrovascular complications (CVC) in left-sided infective endocarditis (IE) [2]. Our study is small, compared with some recent studies in this area [3–5], but the patients in our study were epidemiologically well matched with patients in the National Swedish Endocarditis Registry during the same period. Staphylococcus aureus was the only microorganism identified as a risk factor for symptomatic CVC in our study, which is in agreement with the findings of earlier studies [3–6]. As pointed out by Garbino and Ambrosioni [1], there is a need to evaluate uncommon microorganisms, such as Candida species or gram-negative bacilli, as potential risk factors for CVC. A much larger study is needed to confirm these findings.