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## **Mycobacterium abscessus infection in solid organ transplant recipients: report of three cases and review of the literature.**

Garrison AP, Morris MI, Doblecki Lewis S, Smith L, Cleary TJ, Procop GW, Vincek V, Rosa-Cunha I, Alfonso B, Burke GW, Tzakis A, Hartstein AI.  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Florida, 33136, USA.

### **Abstract**

*Mycobacterium abscessus* is an ubiquitous organism found in the environment. This rapidly growing mycobacterium infrequently causes disease in humans; however, in immunocompromised hosts, disease can range from localized cutaneous lesions to disseminated infection. The organism is resistant to most antimycobacterial drugs and therapy can be limited by drug interactions. The exact incidence of *M. abscessus* infection among solid organ transplant (SOT) recipients is unknown; data are only available from previously reported cases in the literature. We describe 3 cases of *M. abscessus* infection in SOT recipients diagnosed within a 5-month period. One of the cases followed multi-visceral transplantation, the first such case to be reported in the literature. An epidemiological investigation did not reveal significant commonalities among the cases, and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis of genomic DNA of the case isolates confirmed their non-identity. All cases improved with antibiotic therapy, most notably with the new glycolcycline, tigecycline, along with surgical intervention in 2 of the cases. In addition, we review features and characteristics of *M. abscessus* infections in recipients of SOT reported in the literature from 1992 to 2008 and summarize some selected therapeutic concerns and issues related to treatment.

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