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### **AEROBIC FLORA IN A EXTERNAL OCULAR DISEASE LABORATORY**

ALVES, LEANDRO DE SIQUEIRA METHODS Culture of patients referred to a private ocular diseases laboratory in Porto Alegre, RS in the period between January of 1999 and December of 2003 was considered. Bacterial species and in vitro antibiotic sensitivity tests were examined. RESULTS 1923 patients were examined and 310 bacteria were isolated (16.12% of cases). Gram positive strains were the most frequently organisms (78.06%). Staphylococcus aureus was present in 201 cases (64.83%), Streptococcus pneumoniae in 34 (10.96%), Staphylococcus epidermidis in 5 (1.6%). Streptococcus A and Staphylococcus saprophyticus were isolated in 1 case each (0.32%). The gram negative were Klebsiella pneumoniae (19 cases - 6.12%), Pseudomonas aeruginosa - 14 cases (4.52%), Moraxella catarrhalis - 11 cases (3.5%), Escherichia coli - 9 cases (2.9%), Haemophilus sp - 4 cases (1.29%). Bacillus subtilis, Serratia marcescens and Listeria monocytogenes were isolated 1 time each other. The in vitro antibiotic tests were performed by diffusion method and 14 antibiotics were routinely tested. Quinolones (norfloxacin, ofloxacin, ciprofloxacin and lomefloxacin) had maintained their performance in this period of time. Bacteria showed more than 90% of sensitivity to these drugs. Aminoglycosides had lost their efficacy. Gentamicin had 90.90% of spectrum sensitivity in 1999 and 23.17% in 2003 while tobramycin, 41.81% in 1999 and 18.29% in 2003. Drugs such chloramphenicol and tetracycline, not commonly used today, showed increasing from more than 85% in 1999 to more than 90% in 2003. CONCLUSION Aerobic infections are not frequent in a reference laboratory (16.12% of all cases); Gram + are more frequent (78.06%). The sensitivity of bacteria to antibiotics has variations in time. The quinolones seem to have the best behavior in vitro in our study. Chloramphenicol and tetracycline remain as options in treatment.