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**ORAL PRESENTATION**

**Septicaemia with *Enterococcus faecalis* in a bottlenose dolphin**

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This case report relates the illness caused by an *Enterococcus faecalis* septicaemia in a young female bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). As is usual in bottlenose dolphins, the beginning of the illness was characterized by non-specific signs and symptoms which did not reveal the severity of the condition. Initial results of diagnostic tests pointed towards a bacterial infection, but the pathogen could not be identified. Therapy led to some improvement, but not to complete recovery and several relapses were seen. Changes in antibiotic therapy and supportive measures finally resolved the case over a course of more than two months, but some laboratory and therapeutic techniques proved of crucial importance: the diagnostic value of the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the technique of blood culture and the application of infusion therapy to bottlenose dolphins. These techniques are discussed in the light of their role in this case. Moreover, this is the first report of *Enterococcus faecalis* being reported as a pathogen for bottlenose dolphins. Since this bacterium is well-known for its resistancy to antibiotics, we advocate the use of blood cultures and ESR, as well as infusion therapy in bottlenose dolphins.

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