

[ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ]

**The Authors' Reply to "Additional Bacteriological Examinations Might be Required for the Correct Identification of *Staphylococcus warneri*"**

**Key words:** *Staphylococcus warneri*, *Staphylococcus pasteurii*, matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS), infective endocarditis

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**The Authors Reply** We thank Dr. Fukuchi and Dr. Sugawara for their interests in our article (1). They raised a very important question about the pathogen of our case, as *Staphylococcus pasteurii* is phenotypically similar to *S. warneri* and is, therefore, frequently misidentified as *S. warneri* when examined with biochemical procedures (2).

In our case, however, we utilized matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) to identify the pathogenic bacteria and detected *S. warneri* as the causative pathogen of this case of native valve endocarditis. MALDI-TOF MS is a rapid, accurate and cost-effective method for microbial identification in clinical laboratories (3). It also allows for the accurate identification of most Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial strains at the species level (3). While 16S rRNA sequencing is useful for the identification and taxonomic classification of bacterial species, MALDI-TOF MS reportedly distinguishes *S. warneri* and *S. pasteurii* (4, 5).

Therefore, we concluded that *S. warneri* was the pathogen of our case and that the asymptomatic and chronic clinical course is a feature of infective endocarditis due to *S. warneri*. The accumulation of more case reports will help clarify the clinical features of *S. warneri* infectious diseases.

**The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).**

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**References**

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