Melioidosis, caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, is a common infectious disease in tropical regions. The author reports a case of melioidosis with a rare manifestation of portal vein thrombosis and cavernous transformation of the portal vein. Melioidosis should be considered a differential diagnosis in patients with underlying risk factors who present with multiple liver abscesses; moreover, portal vein thrombosis can be a potential complication. Computed tomography is the modality of choice to demonstrate venous thrombosis in various organs.
weeks, in addition to anticoagulants (daily subcutaneous injections of low molecular weight heparin). Percutaneous abscess drainage was not performed because of small abscesses and the patient’s positive response to antibiotics. Improvements in the patient’s abdominal pain and blood test results were obtained. A follow-up CT scan was done after 8 weeks of treatment, showing a completely recanalized left portal vein. At the 10-month follow-up after completion of the antibiotic course, the patient had totally recovered and no relapse had been documented. The patient was advised to avoid direct contact with soil or environmental water, to protect wounds from soil and water, and to avoid walking barefoot.

3. Discussion

Burkholderia pseudomallei (formerly, Pseudomonas pseudomallei) is a bipolar-staining, Gram-negative aerobic bacillus and is found in tropical regions. Melioidosis occurs more frequently in patients with underlying diseases, such as diabetes, chronic renal failure, alcoholism, malignancy, and hematological diseases, including immunosuppression. This patient was first diagnosed with diabetes in this visit and it was noted that he worked as a farmer who sometimes walked barefoot on his cultivated land.

The author reports a case of melioidosis with a rare manifestation of portal vein thrombosis and cavernous transformation diagnosed based on CT findings. There are a few reported cases of melioidosis-associated venous thrombosis. Saïdani et al. [8] reported a case of disseminated melioidosis with pulmonary and liver abscesses, in addition to splenic vein thrombosis. Splenic vein thrombosis is also described in cases of melioidosis associated with pancreatic lesions [9]. Niyasom et al. [10] reported a 42-year-old Thai man suffering from septicemic melioidosis with dural sinus thrombosis. The thrombotic events were possibly caused by an inflammatory response to systemic B. pseudomallei infection, leading to depletion of the natural endothelial modulators protein C, protein S, and antithrombin [10, 11]. LaRosa et al. [11] studied the correlation between inflammation and coagulation in melioidosis sepsis, revealing that consumption of endothelial modulators was a key feature of this process. Protein C was the modulator most profoundly affected, followed by antithrombin and protein S.

Cavernous transformation of the portal vein is a consequence of portal vein thrombosis and is the replacement of the normal single channel portal vein with numerous tortuous venous channels. Multiphase CT can be used to confirm the diagnosis as it demonstrates numerous vascular structures in the region of the portal vein, which are enhanced during the portal venous phase.

Saverymuttu et al. [12] reported that portal hypertension, not hypoalbuminemia, was the dominant factor causing gallbladder wall thickening in chronic liver disease. The CT image (Figure 3) showed gallbladder wall congestion (so-called congestive cholecystopathy) and a periportal halo. Periportal halos are defined as circumferential zones of low attenuation around the peripheral or subsegmental portal venous branches on contrast-enhanced CT. These halos represent fluid or dilated lymphatics in the loose areolar zone.
around the portal triad. This sign is nonspecific and can be seen in various conditions. Transient hepatic attenuation differences (THAD) are localized mismatches in hepatic arterial and portal venous blood supply; often there is a relative increase in hepatic arterial supply, thereby giving a higher attenuation to the affected region. In this case the CT demonstrated higher attenuation in the left lobe of the liver than in the right lobe owing to left portal vein thrombosis.

Various causative organisms have been reported as causing portal vein thrombosis (Table 1).

### 4. Conclusion

Melioidosis should be considered as a differential diagnosis in patients with underlying risk factors who present with multiple liver abscesses; portal vein thrombosis can be a potential complication. Contrast-enhanced CT scan is the modality of choice to identify venous thrombosis in various organs.

### Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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