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VEILLONELLA BACTEREMIA IN AN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENT

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Veillonella species are anaerobic gram-negative cocci that are commensal flora of the mouth, intestinal tract, skin, and genital tract. Bacteremia with this organism is rarely reported. We report a case of *Veillonella* bacteremia in an immunocompromised patient. The patient was a 58 year old male with a history of refractory mantle cell lymphoma, receiving ibrutinib. He presented with high fevers and neutropenia. The patient had no indwelling catheters. Physical examination was negative, except for evidence of gingivitis. *Veillonella* was isolated from patient's blood cultures. The patient was successfully treated with meropenem. It was suspected that the source of the infection was the oral cavity. This case illustrates the significance of normal commensal flora as possible causes of serious infections in the immunocompromised patient. The case also illustrates the need to conduct a thorough physical examination when an unexpected pathogen is identified.