PROLONGED FEVER IN MALIGNANCY

Reynaldo C. de Castro Jr, MD, FPPS, FPSBTH
Fever and Malignancy

- Fever as a sign of malignancy is more common in adults.
- Some malignancy induced fever such as Pel-Ebstein fever is uncommon in children.
- Most common in hematologic malignancies such as lymphohistiocytic disorders/leukemias.

Palazzi, May 2006
American Cancer Society

- Continued, unexplained weight loss
- Headache and vomiting in the morning
- Increased swelling or pain in bones and joints *
- Lump or mass in neck, abdomen *
- Development of eye abnormalities
- Recurrent fever *
- Excessive bruising *
- Noticeable paleness *
Malignancy

- Fever and Lymphadenopathies
- Abnormal Blood picture
- Bone pains
Common Causes of Lymphadenopathy

- 52%: Chronic Lymphadenitis
- 32%: Granulomatous Disease
- 13%: Neoplasia
- 3%: Reactive Hyperplasia
Fig 2. Cause of lymphadenopathy vs age. Shaded area within curves is proportional to age-related frequency of major causes of lymphadenopathy.
Percentage of Healthy Infants and Children with Palpable Lymph Nodes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1 Mo</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-12 Mo</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-12 Yr</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Cervical
- Axillary
- Inguinal
- Palpable

Total
Fig 3. Cause of lymphadenopathy vs site of lymphadenopathy. Percent at each site of adenopathy is therapeutic yield for that location. High yield from supraclavicular adenopathy was due to Hodgkin disease, whereas that in upper cervical and preauricular areas was due to atypical mycobacteria.
Lymphadenopathies

- > 15mm in size
- Postauricular, supraclavicular and epitrochlear
- Absence of inflammation
- Weight loss and hepatosplenomegaly
- No progression in size after 2-3 months of observation
Bone Pains

Any child with suspected arthritis
• whose diagnosis is not definitive or
• who has abnormal peripheral blood picture,
• elevated SLDH or
• steroid therapy is contemplated

→ SHOULD UNDERGO A BMA
ABNORMAL PERIPHERAL BLOOD PICTURE

- Anemia with reticulocytopenia
- Leukocytosis/leukopenia, lymphocytosis and neutropenia
- Thrombocytopenia
- BLASTS in the smear
Basic Tests

- CBC
- SLDH
- Chest X-ray
Chest Radiograph – Mediastinal Thoracic Ratio

Diameter of the tumor

Diameter of the chest (at T5-T6)
Chest X-ray

Most common signs

1. Hematologic Abnormalities
   A. Anemia – 94.9%
   B. Thrombocytopenia – 73%
   C. Lymphocytosis – 70%

Most common signs

1. Hematologic abnormalities
2. Fever – 68.5%
3. Organomegaly – 68%
4. Bone Pains – 30%
• Majority of the 160 patients (81.2%) were misdiagnosed.

• Mean time of delay in diagnosis is 2.1 months or 63 days.
Misdiagnosis

1. Rheumatic fever – 27%
2. Nutritional anemia – 21.5%
3. Infection – 14.7%
4. PTB – 10%
• ANA, ESR or ASO titer that supported the initial physician’s diagnosis gave a false sense of security

Saulsbury, J Ped

1984
HEMOPHAGOCYTIC LYMPHOHISTIOCYTOSIS

- Prolonged fever
- Pancytopenia
- Coagulopathy
- Hepatosplenomegaly
- Failure to thrive
Types

Familial

- Usually 3-4 yrs of age
- Usually made when a second sibling is affected
- Prolonged fever and failure to thrive
Types

Infection Associated

• Associated with viral, bacterial, fungal and parasitic infection
• Immunodeficient patients
• SAME manifestation as familial but coagulopathy pronounced
Diagnostic criteria

• Fever : > 38.5 °C, > 7 days
• Splenomegaly > 3 cms
  AND
  2 of the following
• Anemia
• Thrombocytopenia
• Neutropenia
Diagnostic Criteria

One of the following

- Hypertriglyceridemia
- Hypofibrinogenemia

AND

- Hemophagocytosis in BMA, spleen or lymph node
- No evidence of neoplasia
Hemophagocytosis is found in 60% of patients at the diagnosis.
HLH - Main clinical features

- M/F: 1:1
- Fever: 114/122 (93%)
- Hepato-splenomegaly: 119/122 (97%)
- Lymphadenomegaly: 39/122 (31%)
- Skin rash: 30/122 (24%)
**HLH - Main laboratory features**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>104/122</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerids</td>
<td>78/97</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen</td>
<td>66/101</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutropenia</td>
<td>73/122</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSF Pleocytosis</td>
<td>55/94</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT</td>
<td>55/104</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin &gt;500µg/L</td>
<td>26/31</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HLH: a difficult diagnosis

• Clinic:
  - looks like leukemia....
  - looks like septicemia....
  - looks like viral infection....

• Laboratory:
  - Nothing specific!
Bad news: HLH may be difficult to diagnose and its clinical course is rapidly fatal in most cases...
.. and the only way to rescue them is BMT
COURSE AND TREATMENT

Familial

- Highly fatal
- May respond with chemotherapy But long term prognosis is guarded
- BMT
COURSE AND TREATMENT

Infection Associated

- High fatality rate
- Immunosuppressive chemotherapy may be harmful
- Acyclovir
PCMC Data

1999-2007

- 8 patients
- Prolonged fever (100%)
- Spenomegaly (55%)
- Pancytopenia (73%)
- Hemophagocytosis in BMA (67%)
- Mortality (60%)
PCMC Data

- 2 reported cases of Familial Type
- Prolonged fever > 2 months, hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice and bleeding
- Both died
THANK YOU
AND
GOOD DAY !!!