HIV Sepsis Imposters

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Disclosures

Merck: Adjudicated cases for HIV diagnostic test development

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Case 1

• 48 yo HIV+ man diagnosed in May 2016 with a CD4 of 47. Started on ART and rapidly suppressed but then presented in June 2016 with fatigue, dyspnea, night sweats and headache for weeks.

• On presentation he was pale and ill appearing with a T of 38.2, HR 138, BP 117/63, RR 18. No mention of adenopathy on exam.

• Hct 17, WBC 5.5, plts 32. CXR normal, Head CT normal

• Empirically treated with meropenem, vancomycin, acyclovir and ART

• BCs, UCs, AFB and fungal BCs negative, CrAg negative, CSF studies (CrAg, CMV, EBV, HSV, VZV) negative, urine Histo Ag negative, serum Parvovirus negative
Case 1

What do you want next?

CT of CAP: Massive splenomegaly with diffuse axillary, retroperitoneal and pelvic adenopathy

HHV-8 level: 2.3 million

L axillary lymphnode: HHV-8 associated plasmablastic proliferation. Although the morphology is not typical for MCD, it is likely that this process evolved from MCD

He was treated with weekly rituximab for 4 doses.

He then developed KS and bilateral pleural effusions that prompted Rx with liposomal Doxorubicin and Val-ganciclovir for persistently + HHV-8 levels (29-580K)

He died unexpectedly months later
KSHV Associated Multi-centric Castleman’s Disease (MCD)

- MCD: A lymphoproliferative disorder affecting B-cells and plasma cells

- Clinically
  - Episodic flares of inflammatory symptoms including fevers, night sweats, fatigue, cachexia, edema with tender lymphadenopathy and/or hepatosplenomegaly. Other involved organ systems: lung and GI.
  - Can evolve into large B-cell lymphoma
  - KS is present in 70% of patients
  - Laboratory findings: cytopenias, low albumin, hyponatremia, elevated CRP
  - Flares typically associated with high plasma KSHV levels
  - Without therapy the condition is generally fatal
KSHV Associated Multi-centric Castleman’s Disease (MCD)

• Diagnosis: based on lymph node pathology
  - Three histologic categories
    • Plasma cell
    • Hyaline vascular
    • Mixed variants
  - Vascular hyperplasia
  - Expansion of KSHV infected and reactive plasmacytoid B lymphocytes
  - Concurrent KS in the same lymph node often present
KSHV Associated Multi-centric Castleman’s Disease (MCD)

• Pathogenesis
  - Several KSHV genes that are expressed in the lytic phase of infection (vFLIP, vGPCR, Kaposin B) act through activation of transcriptional factor NF-kB to enhance expression of human IL-6, and IL-10
  - Viral homologue of IL-6, vIL-6, is also thought to play a role
KSHV Associated Multi-centric Castleman’s Disease (MCD)

• Treatment
  – Anti-retroviral therapy
  – Rituximab (375 mg/M\(^2\)) weekly for 4 weeks
    • Targets KSVH infected cells expressing CD-20
    • Eliminates reactive B-cells thereby depriving KSHV cells of cytokine signals
  – Chemotherapy (typically etoposide or liposomal-doxorubicin)
  – Val-ganciclovir (anti-KSHV effect) plus high dose AZT
    (phosphorylated by viral kinases – leading to selective toxicity of infected cells) also effective
  – Siltuximab (anti-human-IL-6, Not vIL-6) and tocilizumab (anti-IL-6 receptor) are under investigation
KSHV Associated Multi-centric Castleman’s Disease (MCD)

- Recent Systematic Review of Treatment for MCD (Rokx, Netherlands J Med 2015)
  - 19 studies, 666 patients, 450 with HIV
  - Patient characteristics:
    - ART coverage 65%, suppressed 41%
    - Median CD4 221 (148-398)
    - Plasma HHV-8 pcr +: 99.7%
    - KS was present in 56%

- Mortality:
  - Overall: 25%
  - Treatment with chemotherapy alone: 37%
  - Treatment with rituximab (with or w/o chemotherapy): 10%
  - Anti IL-6 therapy (mostly used in HIV uninfected persons): 8%

- Other outcomes
  - Progression of KS in 13% (mostly those treated with rituximab alone)
  - Lymphoma developed in 15%
  - Three studies on 149 patients with MCD reported that 34% developed HLH
Case 2
Case 2


• Similar presentations 2013 and 2014 that resolved without specific therapy. Notably, then had HHV-8 levels of 35,000 and 7000 respectively.

• Ill appearing man, T 38.9, HR 150 and BP 70/p. No tender adenopathy or HSM, KS lesions on feet.

• WBC 7.3, Hct 43, Plts 47, creat 1.2, LFTs normal but for albumin of 2.9.

• CXR normal, CT head normal.
Case 2

- Admitted to ICU and treated with IV fluids and abx (vancomycin and meropenem)
- CSF formula benign, CSF viral, fungal and bacterial studies negative, BCs negative
- What is going on and what tests do you want?
  - CRP 170
  - HHV-8 1.2 million copies
  - IL-6 level 93.5
KSHV Inflammatory Cytokine Syndrome (KICS)

- Lytic HHV-8 expression leads to the expression of viral-IL-6 and other genes that induce expression of human-IL-6, suppression of T-regulatory cells and activation of macrophages and PMNs

- Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis/Working Case Definition:
  - At least 2 clinical manifestations (see 1- a,b,c below) + 2 + 3 + 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Clinical manifestations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Symptoms</td>
<td>Fever, fatigue, edema, cachexia, respiratory symptoms, GI symptoms, arthralgia and myalgia, AMS, neuropathy with or without pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Labs</td>
<td>Anemia, low pltS, low Na, low albumin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Radiographic</td>
<td>Lymphadenopathy, HSM, body cavity effusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Systemic inflammation</td>
<td>CRP &gt; 3 mg/dL</td>
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<td>3. KSVH viral activity</td>
<td>Plasma HHV-8 &gt; 1000 copies/mL or PBMCs &gt; 100 copies of HHV-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. No MCD</td>
<td>No evidence of MCD on histopathology</td>
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# KSHV Inflammatory Cytokine Syndrome (KICS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KICS</th>
<th>MCD</th>
<th>KS-IRIS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>MCD without pathologic confirmation</td>
<td>Lymphoproliferative d/o, systemic inflammation, high KSHV viremia, Typical histopathology</td>
<td>New and inflamed KS lesions after starting ART</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Histopathology</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lymph node: KSHV infected, polyclonal plasmacytoid cells</td>
<td>KS with atypical inflammatory component</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KSHV viremia</strong></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temporal assoc ART</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cytokines</strong></td>
<td>High hIL-6, vIL-6 &amp; IL-10</td>
<td>High hIL-6, vIL-6 &amp; IL-10</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV viremia</strong></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CD4 count</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 100</td>
<td>&gt; 200</td>
<td>On the rise</td>
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KSHV Inflammatory Cytokine Syndrome (KICS)

Treatment and Outcomes

• No clear treatment regimens. Generally, use same therapies as for MCD.

• Rituximab monotherapy:
  - 92% resolved symptoms at 60 days
  - But 1/3 developed worsening KS (are B-cells important for controlling KS?)

• Rituximab + liposomal-doxorubicin
  - Event-free survival at 1 year: 82%
  - Only 1/17 patients had progression of KS
Case 2 - continued

• Diagnosed with KICS
• Treated with liposomal doxorubicin, rituximab, prednisone and val-ganciclovir
• Discharged in 7 days
• Two more cycles of liposomal doxorubicin and rituximab as an outpatient
• No further recurrences
Case 3

- A 24 yo MSM moved to Seattle from southern Indiana where he worked as a laborer on free-range chicken farm shoveling manure.

- He fell ill on the bus ride west and arrived at the HMC ED with fever (39), cough, dyspnea, LE edema and headache. Exam revealed an acutely ill-appearing young man with a BP of 90/60, HR 126, RR 30, mild meningismus, fine rales at the lung bases and a tender LUQ.

- CXR is shown
Case 3

- Hgb: 8, Plts 90k, WBC 1.2
- HIV 4th generation test is + but confirmatory Ab testing is negative
- What tests do you want next?
- HIVRNA is 1,200,000 copies
- Urinary histoplasma Ag is ++
- He is started on amphotericin and a week later on bictegravir-TAF-FTC but he remains febrile and now his Hgb is 6, Plts are 80K and WBC is 0.8
- What tests do you want now?
Case 3

- Ferritin is 15,000
- Triglycerides are 350
- sCD25 is 3500 (send out test)
- BM biopsy shows this

But also this:

He is diagnosed with primary HIV, disseminated Histoplasmosis and Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

- Definition: Upregulated and hyperactive T-lymphocytes and macrophages that lead to hematopoetic cell phagocytosis and cytokine release

- Two forms: Primary and Secondary
  - **Primary**: genetic disorders: genes involved in perforin function (PRF), granule secretion (UNC13D), intracellular trafficking (STX11), signal transduction of T and NK cells (SAP), lysosomal trafficking (LYST1) and granule exocytosis (RAB27a)
  - **Secondary**: triggered by infections, malignancies and autoimmune d/o
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis

• Genetic diagnosis OR

• Clinical and Laboratory Criteria: must have 5/9
  - Fever
  - Splenomegaly
  - Cytopenias (affect 2 of 3 lines): Hgb < 9, Plts < 100, PMN < 100
  - Hypertriglyceridemia or hypofibrinogenemia: TG > 265 or Fibrinogen < 150
  - Hemophagocytosis on bx of BM, lymph node, spleen or liver
  - Low or absent NK activity
  - Ferritin > 500
  - Soluble CD25 (IL-2 receptor) > 2400
  - Elevated CXCL9
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

Review of 81 Patients with HIV & HLH from 70 Articles

- Median age: 40; 78% male
- Clinical presentation ranged from acute illness to chronic wasting syndrome (median time from symptom onset to diagnosis: 18 days (range 1-330)
- Median time from HIV diagnosis → HLH: 1 year (range 0.3-6)
- On ART at the time of HLH dx: 69% (35/53)
- HLH was presenting symptom leading to HIV dx: 35% (28/81): 1/3 of these had primary HIV
- HIV suppressed at HLH dx: 12% (10/81)
### Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

#### Review of 81 Patients with HIV & HLH from 70 Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trigger</th>
<th>N (total n=81)</th>
<th>% Cured</th>
<th>% Died</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute HIV</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRIS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV only (without primary HIV)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral infections *EBV, HHV-8, CMV, HSV, HBV, Parvo B19</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive fungal infection (Histoplasma, Cryptococcus, Aspergillus, PJP, Penicillium)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial infection (CAP, MTB, MAC, Syphilis, C diff, Bartonella, Ehrlichia, bacteremia)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasitic infection (Toxoplasma, malaria, Leishmania)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy (Lymphoma, Myeloma)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

Review of 81 Patients with HIV & HLH from 70 Articles

• Overall mortality: 40%

• 60% (49/81) received HLH-directed Rx (mix of steroids, IVIG, chemotherapy (etoposide), anakinra, cyclosporin). 50% of these patients died

• Those with IRIS and cancer fared worse, mortality 60% and 75%

• Those with invasive fungal infections did better; mortality 25%

• In general, when the triggering illnesses was treated, patients did well with or without HLH directed treatment

• After cure only 3 patients relapsed
HIV Sepsis Imposters: MCD, KICS, HLH

- Uncommon inflammatory disorders that occur in HIV+ patients
- Highly associated with replicating HHV-8 and HHV-8 associated cancers (MCD & KICS) or other infectious and malignancy triggers (HLH)

Clinical presentation:
- MCD & KICS: moderately to severely ill with high fever, sweats, edema, adenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, organ dysfunction, cytopenias, hyponatremia, hypoalbuminemia and elevated HHV-8 levels
- HLH: cytopenias, phagocytosis, fever, HSM, elevated CD25, ferritin, CXCL9, reduced NK activity

Pathogenesis:
- MCD & KICS: HHV8→ elevated IL-6 and IL-10 levels (and vIL-6)
- HLH: triggers of macrophage activation

Treatment
- MCD & KICS: ART + rituximab + liposomal doxorubicin (if KS or organ dysfunction).
- HLH: treat the trigger +/- HLH directed therapy (e.g. etoposide & steroids)
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