



# RhAPP

RHEUMATOLOGY ADVANCED  
PRACTICE PROVIDERS

## Inaugural National Conference

**December 3 – 5, 2020**

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



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## The Derm ∞ Rheum Connection

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# Disclosures

## **Margaret Bobonich**

- Lilly USA, AbbVie, UCB, Janssen,  
Center for Advanced Practice Dermatology

## **Audrey Gibson**

- AbbVie, Sanofi-Genzyme

# Case Study

## **71 yr old male:**

- History of red scaling rash, very pruritic
- Mostly on his back and arms/hands
- Worsen after vacation to Florida
- Now spreading to his scalp and neck
- ROS: unremarkable
- PMH: HTN (controlled) and hypercholesterolemia
- Meds: metoprolol and simvastatin
- Tx: Medrol dosepak by PCP with mild improvement initially, topical corticosteroids

**Diagnostics:** Punch biopsy (back)

# Clinical Presentation



**Diagnostic approach:** Punch biopsy showing hyperkeratosis, vacuolar interface dermatitis, dermal edema and *mucin deposition*. Histology is similar to lupus erythematosus except negative lupus band (immunofluorescence)

# Cutaneous Manifestations of DM

## **Adult**

- Gottron papules
- Heliotrope rash
- Nailfold changes
- Shawl and holster sign
- “V” sign
- Scalp involvement
- VERY pruritic

## **Difference in juvenile dermatomyositis**

- Similar to adults but rash more diffuse
- Amyopathic is rare
- Calcinosis cutis
- Rare underlying malignancy & interstitial lung disease
- More ulcerative than adults

# Dermatomyositis

- History
- Physical
- Imaging – CXR, PFTs, CT of lungs
- Labs-creatinine kinase and aldolase, CBC with diff, CMP, ESR, CRP TSH
  - ANA, anti-Ro/SSA, anti-La/SSB, anti-ribonucleoprotein (RNP), and anti-Sm; anti-Jo-1
- Other Tests: Muscle biopsy, skin biopsy, EMG, MRI



# Differential diagnosis

- Inflammatory myopathies – PM, DM, inclusion body, juvenile DM, vasculitis, overlap syndromes, RA, Sjogren's
- Inherited – acid maltase def., muscular dystrophy
- Drugs – cocaine, heroin, ETOH, corticosteroids, colchicine, antimalarial, penicillamine
- Endocrine – hypothyroidism, Cushing
- Electrolyte disorders – hypophosphatemia, hypocalcemia, hyper- or hyponatremia
- Infectious myopathies
  - Viral-flu, Coxsackie, HIV, adenovirus, EBV
  - Bacterial-lyme
  - Fungal
  - Parasitic-toxoplasmosis, trichinosis
- Rhabdomyolysis – crush traumas, seizures, ETOH, exertion, vascular surgery, malignant hyperthermia

# Malignancy and Dermatomyositis

- Incidence: increased 5- to 7-fold compared with the general population
- Types: Adenocarcinomas of the cervix, lung, ovaries, pancreas, bladder, and stomach account for approximately 70% of the cancers associated with inflammatory myopathies
- Clinical risk factors: Evidence of capillary damage on muscle biopsy, Cutaneous necrosis, Cutaneous leukocytoclastic vasculitis, Older age at disease onset, Dysphagia
- Serum autoantibodies
  - Positive risk – "Cancer-associated myositis" antibodies to transcription intermediary factor (TIF)-1gamma and with antibodies to nuclear matrix protein (NXP)-2 (anti-MJ or anti-p140)
  - Negative risk – the presence of myositis-specific (anti-synthetase antibodies, anti-Mi-2, anti-SRP) and myositis-associated antibodies (anti-RNP, anti-PM-Scl, anti-Ku) appears to be associated with a decreased risk of malignancy but an increased risk of interstitial lung disease in DM

# Approach to Screening

- Malignancy – All patients with DM should undergo a thorough H&P, with breast, rectal, and pelvic examinations; laboratory testing; and age-appropriate cancer screening tests
- Cardiac involvement – signs or symptoms of heart failure or of conduction abnormalities, ECHO and EKG
- Pulmonary disease – CXR, PFTs, CT
- Esophageal dysfunction – esophageal motility studies should be performed

# Screening Continued

- CT of the chest/abdomen/pelvis
  - Older age at disease onset
  - Severe cutaneous disease, especially patients with the shawl sign or skin necrosis
  - Resistance to treatment
  - Prior history of malignancy with the risk of relapse
  - Absence of interstitial lung disease
  - Absence of myositis-specific and myositis-associated antibodies and the presence of the p155/140 and/or anti-NXP2 antibodies

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# Screening Continued

- Repeat cancer screening in patients is not well-established. Increased risk of cancer for at least five years in patients with DM (but not PM), although the risk declines annually
- Pediatrics – children with JDM or JPM do not have an increased risk of malignancy. Thus, a search for malignancy does not need to be made when children present with idiopathic inflammatory myopathy, unless the presenting features are unusual

# Dermatomyositis Management

- Skin vs musculoskeletal
- Initially high dose steroid – 1 mg/kg per day and generally do not exceed 80 mg daily
- Azathioprine
- Methotrexate
- IVIG
- Antimalarials
- Other treatments – Rituximab, MMF, Calcineurin inhibitors, Cyclophosphamide, JAKs

# Dermatomyositis Management

- Exercise
- Aspiration risk
- Sunlight avoidance
- Osteoporosis
- Opportunistic infections
- Immunizations



# Case Study

62 yr old female

- Rash on arms, chest, shoulders and chest.
- Initially sunburn after outdoors but won't resolve

**PMH:** hypertension, hypothyroidism, GERD

**Meds:** metoprolol, omeprazole, HCTZ, Synthroid

**DDX:** photodrug eruption, SCLE, drug-induced lupus, DM, porphyria, psoriasis

**Diagnostics:** punch biopsy showing hyperkeratosis, vacuolar interface dermatitis, dermal edema and *mucin deposition*. Add'l direct immunofluorescence shows positive lupus band



# Lupus Erythematosus



**Cutaneous  
disease**

**Systemic  
disease**

Acute lupus erythematosus

Subacute lupus erythematosus

Discoid lupus erythematosus

# Subacute Cutaneous Lupus

- Highly photosensitive annular-polycyclic or papulosquamous eruption distributed symmetrically on sun-exposed areas
  - Upper back, chest, shoulders and extensor arms
  - Typically heal without scarring
  - Dyspigmentation can occur and persist for months
- Psoriasiform
  - more common, appears as psoriasiform plaques and can be misdiagnosed as photosensitive psoriasis
- Annular-polycyclic
  - Confused with figurate erythema or a superficial dermatophyte infection

# Diagnostics

## Diagnostic workup

- KOH scraping
- Skin biopsy and labs can help differentiate
- Mild systemic disease, joint pains and lab abnormalities are common
  - +ANA (CAUTION)
  - +Ro/SSA, less frequent La/SSB

# Diagnostics

- Nearly ½ of patients with SCLE have sufficient criteria for a diagnosis of SLE
- Yet only 10% go on to develop severe SLE disease.
- Screening for underlying SLE.
- ANA, CBC and UA is sufficient for those without other symptoms.
- If the ANA is elevated ( $> 1:160$ ) or a patient has symptoms suggestive of systemic lupus, further testing is warranted.
  - Anti-dsDNA, anti-Smith, CMP, ESR, C3, C4.

# Who's at Risk

- SCLE is more female predominant than discoid lupus. The female to male ratio is 8:1 in SCLE compared with nearly 1:1 in discoid lupus.
- Early as 18 months to the elderly.
- However, it most commonly occurs in the 40 to 60 years age range.
- Unlike DLE, SCLE is uncommon in African Americans.

# What Causes

- Autoimmune disease felt to be due to an interplay of genetics, hormones and environment
- SCLÉ is associated with the extended haplotype HLA DRB1\*0301-B08
- Complement deficiencies
- Environment – the most well-known environmental trigger is ultraviolet light

# Drug induced SCLE

As many as 1/3 are drug induced (prescription and OTC!)

- HTN
- Lipid lowering
- PPI
- Antifungals
- TNF-
- Newer agents
- Indistinguishable from idiopathic SCLE
- Ro/La antibodies
- Anti-histone
- ds-DNA may be positive



# Management

- Sun avoidance and sun protection is the first step to therapy
  - UVA and UVB
  - Physical sunscreens
- SMOKING cessation!
- Topical therapy with steroids can be initiated as first-line therapy
- Antimalarials (hydroxychloroquine and quinacrine)
  - First-line systemic therapy (when to start?)
  - Up to 2/3 of patients with SCLÉ respond to single-agent or combination antimalarial therapy
  - Pregnancy
- Thalidomide, dapsone, methotrexate, mycophenolate mofetil, azathioprine, prednisone
- Emerging therapies: belimumab, rituximab, abatacept, baricitinab, ustekinumab

# Resources

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# Resources

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Thank You!