



# 11/23/20 Morning Report with @CPSolvers



Case Presenter: Simone Vais (@SimoneVais) Case Discussants: Gurbari Kaur and Dhruv Srinivasachar (@TheRealDSrini)

**CC:** Fall

**HPI:** 61M brought by EMS after an **unwitnessed fall**. On his way to methadone clinic when he fell, no prodromal Sx. Confused, cannot ask questions. No other history obtained.

**Vitals:** T: 36.9 HR:75 BP:148/94 RR:21 SpO<sub>2</sub>:97% RA

**Exam:**

**Gen:** no acute distress, **appears confused.**

**HEENT:** Mild abrasion over nose and R cheek bones

**CV:** RR, no murmurs or gallops

**Pulm:** Mild expiratory wheezes bilateral bases, no crackles.

**Abd:** Soft, non tender non distended.

**Neuro:** he's able to say name and location, **not able to state date.** Responds to questions in short sentences. 10 word sentences over event of morning, **word finding difficulties.** Able to follow commands, **but requires frequent redirection.** CN intact, visual fields intact. Strength and sensation intact. Finger-to-nose ok but finger-nose-finger abnormal due to **inattention.**

**Extremities/Skin:** numerous scattered 0.5cm non-tender suprapubic nodules.

**Problem Representation:** Later middle aged male w/ opiate use disorder, HTN and Hx of NSTEMI who had an unwitnessed fall w/ cardiac ischemic changes and L frontal encephalomalacia.

### Teaching Points (Sukriti):

#### Investigating the Sx: Altered mental status + Fall

Acute altered mental status: MIST mnemonic  
 Fall: Why the fall? Mechanical vs underlying sinister pathology (syncope-- cardiovascular (structural vs abnormal rhythm), orthostatic hypotension, vasovagal)  
 Consequences of the fall? Subdural hemorrhage

#### Collecting clues: Encephalopathy + cardiac injury + opiate use

Persistent neuro Sx after fall + facial trauma after a ground level fall: increased suspicion for an abrupt fall (seizure, syncope, stroke) -- No miss Dx for new onset seizure! - Toxidrome, space occupying lesion  
 Suprapubic nodules: immune status? -- subcutaneous skin lesion (fungal, TB, malignancy) vs Inguinal LAD (HIV, Syphilis, lymphoma)

**CRP:** A slight rise in troponin -- indicates some myocardial injury, low sensitivity for an MI

#### Framing our hypothesis: focal encephalomalacia + encephalopathy

Encephalomalacia → Neuro Sx: Stroke > Syphilis, HIV vs encephalomalacia an indicator for an underlying chronic infection

CRP: Stroke + LOC -- think basilar artery stroke, b/l thalamic lesion  
 CRP: neurosyphilis doesn't always mean tertiary syphilis  
 General paresis of insane: cerebral atrophy in late-stage syphilis

**PMH:** HTN, COPD, NSTEMI, COVID- pneumonia, methamphetamine use disorder, opiate use disorder,

**Meds:**

**Notable Labs & Imaging:**

**Hematology:** WBC: 7.5 Hgb:12.6 Htc 40.2 Plt:259

**Chemistry:** Na: 137 K:4.6 Cl:102 CO2:27 BUN:18 Cr:0.83 glucose:96  
 AST:15 ALT:8 Alk-P:65 T. Bili:0.5 Albumin: 4 Lactate 1.  
 Troponin 82 → 119 (nl <40). BNP: 86  
 Covid neg.

**UA:** no WBC or RBC, no occult blood, pH 5.5, no leukocyte esterase, no glucose, sp gravity 1.018, utox neg - methamphetamines, cocaine, benzo, **positive hydromorphone, methadone and heroin metabolites.** Blood ethanol neg.  
 HIV and VDRL neg.

**Imaging:**

**EKG:** Regular sinus rhythm, regular axis. L ventricular hypertrophy, T wave inversion in V4-V6, L1, L2, QTC 477 (nl 500)

**CT head face and brain:** no herniation, hydrocephalus or bleed. No evidence of skull fracture. L frontal encephalomalacia. No evidence of acute traumatic injury.

**MRI:** Remote encephalomalacia, **Acute R MCA stroke in insulo-temporoparietal region.**