



# 3/13/23 ID Morning Report with @CPSolvers



Case Presenter: Dr. Jorge Salazar (@Jorge\_SalazarMD) Case Discussants: Dr. Monica Gandhi (@MonicaGandhi9)

**CC:** Generalized weakness, fatigue, weight loss

**HPI:** 44 yo transgender woman with recent diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (**CD4 14, VL 2 million**); next day went to ED. Prior to admission - seen in clinic for HIV intake after positive HIV screen, obtained labs, and started on ART. Sent to ED after labs came back with some abnormalities. Past 3-4 weeks, feeling unwell, fatigue, generalized weakness (barely able to get out of bed), **Unintentional weight loss ~80 lbs.** No dyspnea, but chronic non-productive cough for years, somewhat worse in past weeks

No fevers, chills, sweats, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, rashes.

Dysphagia. **R eye blurry vision (past year).**

**Frontal headaches with some photophobia (past 2 weeks), intermittent, sharp in quality.** No neck pain, no confusion. **Tinnitus bilaterally**

**PMH:**  
R  
corneal ulcer (2020)  
Substance use  
Psychosis NOS  
**Meds:**  
Took Bitarvy for 1 day

**Soc Hx/Health-Related Behaviors:**  
Living in Southern California, now in SF  
-Living in an SRO; has access to food  
-Uses IV drugs; drinks daily  
-Past sexual partners (men and women) not currently sexually active. Never previously on PreP  
-No exotic or farm animal exposures  
No allergies; unknown FHx

**Vitals:** T: 98.6F HR: 90 BP: 102/65RR: 20 SpO<sub>2</sub>: 99%  
**Weight:** 112lbs (51.2kg)

**Exam:** **Gen:** Chronically ill appearing, thin, chetic, frail, no lymphadenopathy  
**Mental status:** wnl responding appropriately

**HEENT:** R corneal defect, oral cavity with poor dentition and extensive thrush present

**CV:** RRR, normal S1/S2, no murmurs

**Pulm:** Clear, no rhonchi or rales

**Abd:** Healed midline surgical scar. Soft abdomen, but mildly tender diffusely. No rebound or guarding.

**Neuro:** CN intact, moving extremities normally, no nuchal rigidity

**Extremities/Skin:** No lower extremity edema, no rashes

## Notable Labs & Imaging:

**Hematology:**  
WBC: 2.9, ALC: 0.21 Hgb: 12.1 Plt: 92; CD4: 13/4%

**Chemistry:**  
Na:125 K: 4 Cl:91 CO<sub>2</sub>: BUN: Cr: 0.9 glucose: 68 AST: 77 ALT: 57 Alk-P: 914 T. Billi: 0.4 Albumin: 2.4

**ID work up:** Adeno, metapneumo, Flu, RSV, Rhino, Enterovirus, Bordetella, mycoplasma and Chlamydiaophila all negative

COVID: negative; CMV: negative; HSV: negative

**Syphilis:** Positive 1:256  
Beta d-glucan: >500

Chronic Hep B, with immunity; Hep C: Negative; Hep A: negative

**Serum CrAg:** 1:1024 (serum)

VLDR: negative

## Imaging:

**CT Head:** Unremarkable, no midline shift

**CXR:** Patchy opacities within L retrocardiac region, no effusion

**CT Chest:** Ground glass opacities bilaterally, no effusion

**CT Abd:** enlarged liver with severe periportal edema, mild intra-hepatic biliary ductal dilation. GB and extrahepatic biliary ductal wall edema with mucosal hyperenhancement. Spleen normal, no LAD present.

LP: opening pressure 14; WBC: 2(lymph 56%; PMN1%, monos 43%); ORBCs, protein 48 glucose 33

Lungs(BAL): **PJP positive, Cryptococcus positive**

Blood Culture: **Grew cryptococcus (2/2)**

On empiric PJP treatment

Initially treated with Fluconazole

**Final Dx:** Disseminated Cryptococcus (CNS, blood and pulm), PJP pneumonia, suspected otic syphilis in the setting of advanced HIV/AIDS.

## Problem Representation:

## Teaching Points (Yaz):

**On immunocompromised px → Check the CD4 count**

4 infectious etiologies:

- 1) Bacteria: TB vs. non-TB, "weird" gram (+) that could be a mix or Nocardia, "weird" (-) usually pyogenic
- 2) Fungal → PCP is the #1, endemic fungi (histo, blasto, coccidio/paracoccidio)
- 3) Parasites
- 4) Viral

Keep a category for non-infectious etiology: paraneoplastic sx vs. primary CA ( lymphoma)  
Headaches Can be caused by Cryptococcus, endemic fungi, mycobacteria, and virus (CMV)  
Dysphagia: Most common etiology → Candida

**In px with very low CD4 count:** Bartonella can cause chronic endocarditis and LP may not reflect the infectious etiology. **Think of more than 1 process**  
On PE, remember to look at the oral cavity (thrush? leukoplakia?), poor dentition? (think anaerobes) and don't forget to perform fundoscopy

## Next steps:

- Imaging → Head CT to evaluate IP, White matter enhancement, Ventricular size, and posteriorly get a LP
- Serology: Serum CrAg, CSF CrAg, CMV antigen (which may not be conclusive)

## Approach to serology findings:

Leukopenia: MAC can infiltrate BM → BM biopsy is the fastest way to dx vs. Lymphoma vs. EBV and CMV

HypoNa: Suggest relation with CNS (meningitis, encephalitis, TB, toxoplasmosis, CNS lymphoma)

Cholangiopathy: Main differentials → **HIV, CMV, Crypto, HSV, EBV**

↑ Alk Phos: Liver infiltration

Ground glass opacities: PCP is the most common but also consider infiltrative dx.

Severe immunodeficiencies may show very LOW white count,

↑ CrAg titer: Suggests cryptococcus infection → lung or brain → CSF CrAg and VDRL may be the next step. **The higher, the more disseminated**  
**Should I start ATB/Prophylaxis?**

No S&S of bacterial dx/ Bland CSF don't consider empiric ATB, and before giving Crypto tx get the LP and imaging. **Do not start ART unless:** severe crypto (↑OP and low WBC) or CNS process that creates a mass effects.

PJP tx with TMP/SMX Vigilante WBC, One dose of Ampho B and continue with Fluconazole OR start High dose fluconazole