

08/02/23 Morning Report with @CPSolvers

“One life, so many dreams” Case Presenter: Maddy (@MadellenaC) Case Discussants: Steph and Zaven (@sargsyanz)

CC: Patient A: 87F presented w/ **bilateral** lower extremity swelling & redness
 Patient B: 47F presented w/ **unilateral** lower extremity swelling & redness

HPI: **Pt A:** noted worsening swelling & pain in the last several days with more pain; mainly sitting on the couch for last 4 days due to difficulty walking; no fever, chills night sweats, SOB, & abdo pain
Pt B: woke up with fever (Tmax 104°F) & chills; noticed her left leg was swelling; 10/10 pain; also endorsed night sweats and chills a day before

PMH:
Pt A: chronic lymphedema 2/2 obesity with recurrent cellulitis, AF, HTN
Pt B: chronic lymphedema secondary to obesity, HTN, lupus erythematous tumidus

Meds:
 Pt A: Amlodipine, Furosemide, Eliquis
 Pt B: prednisone, metoprolol, furosemide

Allergies:
 N/A

Fam Hx:
 N/A

Soc Hx:
 Pt A: smoker, a pack a day. Retired, lives alone at home. Walks with a walker, independent, hasn't moved a lot in past.
 Pt B: noncontributory

Health-Related Behaviors:
 Non-contributory

Pt A: Vitals: T: afebrile HR:62 BP:138/45 RR:19 SpO2 100% RA
Exam: **Abd:** no abdominal pain



Pt B: Vitals: T: 102.4 HR: 100-120s BP: RR: SpO2 95% RA



Notable Labs & Imaging:

PATIENT A: Hematology: WBC: 9 Hgb: 10.9 Plt: 182
Chemistry: unremarkable

Imaging: Duplex US: negative, no DVT,
Patient A: BNP 4800, Echo with EF 73%, no regional wall motion abnormalities or valvular disease

PATIENT B: Hematology: WBC: 20 with neutrophil dominant Hgb: Plt: 2.7
Chemistry: wnl
 Duplex US: negative, no DVT,

Pt A: working dx - chronic lymphedema with venous stasis dermatitis

Pt B: dx - unilateral cellulitis

Both treated with Ancef -> Keflex

Problem Representation: A 87F w/ a hx of chronic lymphedema 2/2 obesity presented with worsening **bilateral** lower extremity swelling & redness; she was also afebrile. On the contrary, a 47F w/ a similar background presented with **unilateral** lower extremity swelling & redness with severe pain, fever, and night sweats.

Teaching Points (Bea):

Definition of **lymphedema:** problem in lymphatic drainage from an insult (sth compressing => tumors themselves/answer to drugs/radiation therapy...) **primary/secondary** (99%)

Lymphedema does increase chance of cellulitis!

Swelling => **unilateral:** local process (i.e. cellulitis, especially with erythema) vs **bilateral:** systemic process more likely

Immobility => chronic venous stasis should be considered

Chronic swelling in lower extremities: venous insufficiency from obesity

Fever: systemic involvement; **night sweats:** sepsis

HTN, fibrillation, hypothyroidism in PMH, amlodipine: **HF concern**

Infectious inflammation vs stretch/injury damage inflammation

Steroid inflammation: DVT, HTN, fever

Patient A: high BNP; Left ventricular HF: SOB and edema

Cellulitis Management: elevation and removing venous pressure improve clinical picture even before antibiotics

In a patient with a history of chronic lymphedema, it may be challenging to assess whether dermatitis is from venous stasis or cellulitis =>

bilateral cellulitis is rare!

Cellulitis: Staph(purulent) Strep (non purulent) more common

All edema is lymphedema: extravasation happens all the time, what clears is the lymphatic system; in HF developing edema (pulmonary, ascites...), extravasation outpaced the drainage!

8lt of daily liquid extravasation and soaking up! Everything is multifactorial: how much drugs/venous/lymphatic is contributing to the liquid excess

Lymphangioscintigraphy: assess how lymphatic is functioning