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# 02/05/24 Rafael Medina Subspecialty VMR with @CPSolvers



“One life, so many dreams” Case Presenter: Dana Larsen (@dana\_m\_larsen) Case Discussants: David Li (@DavidYujieLi)

**CC:** Altered mental status in a pt with dialysis

**HPI:** 74 yo F with **ESRD** on continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (**CAPD**), came to the clinic for **increase confusion**. According to her family, she was **lack of independence** in the recent days. The pt originally lived in SF, **recently traveled to LA**. Her family reported the pt **was forgettable** (eg, forgot to do the dialysis). The pt also noticed the **PD fluid is cloudy**.

**ROS:** neg for abd pain, no fever/chills, no n/v, no diarrhea, no constipation

**PMH:** **ESRD, HTN, HLD, TB**  
Surgery: **PD catheter 1 year ago**

**Meds:**  
Losartan, Metoprolol succinate, Atorvastatin, Renal Multivitamin,

**Fam Hx:**  
HTN in mother side

**Soc Hx:**  
Lived with his son and daughter, moved from **Vietnam** to the US as an adult. No pets.

**Health-Related Behaviors:** none

**Allergies:** none

**Vitals:** T: afebrile **HR:** nl **BP:** 110/ 60 **RR:** 21, on RA

**Exam:**  
**Gen:** **chronically ill** appearing not acutely ill  
**HEENT:** unremarkable. **CV:** regular rate rhythm **Pulm:** clear lungs **Abd:** soft nontender **Neuro:** fully oriented, no asterixis,  
**Extremities/skin:** no erythema/induration/tenderness PD cath site.

**Notable Labs & Imaging:**  
**Hematology:**  
WBC: 6 Hgb:10 Plt: 270  
**Chemistry:**  
Na: 134 K: 3.5 Cl: 89 HCO3: 23 BUN: 77 Cr: 11 glucose: 120  
GFR: around 3  
**PD fluid:** Cloudy appearance, **WBC 187** (27% Neutrophils), gram stain neg, bacterial cx on process.

**D2:** Empirical abx given, back to clinic. AMS no change, no abd pain, on dialysis, PD fluid: cloudy, **WBC 88** (40% Neu), Cx no growth, fungal culture sent

**D4:** AMS same, PD fluid: still cloudy, **WBC 700** (76% Neu), Cx no growth, vac trop 10, **increased vac**

**D6:** **new diffuse abd pain**, PD fluid: **WBC 600** (95% Neu). Fluid collection **found at cath site**. ID and IR consulted. After cath removed, still on vac and cefepime, WBC trend down, treated for culture neg peritonitis

**D16:** **PCR: TB positive**; Cx neg; received anti-TB treatment, on HD, plan to switch back to PD after treatment finished.

**Imaging:**  
CT (W/ contrast, D6): small **fluid collection at PD cath site**.  
CT chest (D16): no active TB

**Dx:** **TB peritonitis**

**Problem Representation:** 74 y/o female with PMH of ESRD on CAPD, HTN, and TB migrated from Vietnam presenting chronically ill and with AMS.

**Teaching Points (Parisa):**

- Peritoneal dialysis → fluid will go through patients own peritoneal membrane/ more adaptive w/ patient schedule/ once/day.
- AMS in dialysis comes with initial broad ddx → MIST → history of cloudy dialysis → abdominal infection → peritonitis (common in PD pts).
- Most common complication of HD => think bacteremia
- **Initial work up**=> BNP, UA, CBC w/ diff, tap fluid cell count + diff + gram stain. Start empirical AB.
- Uremic exam findings=> asterixis, somnolence.
- Peritoneal fluid taken from PD: Optimal if 1L stays for 2 hrs in abdomen → cell count w/ Diff → **WBC >100, 50% PMNs gram stain culture**, if patient is still urinating, check UA, UC for UTI.
- Patients with PD are managed by residual urine out/ not Cr.
- Erythema, induration, tenderness at the cath exit site → Superficial subcutaneous tissue infection.
- Treatment** => Vancomycin + ceftriaxone/cefepime + antifungal ppx (pts on PD rely on their GI flora, abx can shift flora towards yeast spp.)
- Bacterial peritonitis criteria → (≥3 +) WBC > 100 (50% PML); symptoms consistent w/ peritonitis; positive dialysis culture.
- If WBC does not decrease → Refractory/Recurrent → better after 5 days get/Relapsing improved 5 days within a month with same organism
- Worsening peritonitis despite AB => uncovering organism or do not have adequate source control (Cath infection) → Imaging → Check for abdominal abscess, PD cath-site for peri-catheter fluid stranding, abscesses.
- Catheter removal needed when there is no source control! Check WBC ct after cath removal to assess abx coverage.
- Imaging with contrast IV => can cause transient kidney injury due to osmotic and transiently decrease blood flow to kidney
- Unresponsiveness to AB + history of TB → AFB culture
- Always consider peritonitis in infections work up in patients with peritoneal dialysis