



# 03/21/24 Morning Report with @CPSolvers



"One life, so many dreams" Case Presenter: Laura Pax Case Discussants: Rabih (@rabihmgeha) and Navpreet (@navpreetcheema1)

**CC:** Unidentified/unknown age (probably 30's) M patient is taken to the ED for **altered mental status** of unknown duration.

**HPI:** Patient was found obtunded on the ground on a bus station, minimally responsive. On arrival to the ED, BP= 80's. HE received a dose of naloxone with mild improvement of RR and bradycardia. He was put on a drip with naloxone and given empiric ATB (ceftriaxone & vancomycin). He was directed to the ICU.

**PMH:** unknown

**Fam Hx:** Unknown

**Meds:** unknown

**Soc Hx:** Unknown

**Health-Related Behaviors:** Unknown

**Allergies:** Unknown

**Vitals:** T: 30.4°C HR: 55 BP: 121/87 RR: 15 SatO2: 100%  
**Exam:** Gen: no acute distress, GCS 7  
**HEENT:** superficial abrasions, pinpoint pupils  
**CV:** bradycardic, regular, no murmurs  
**Pulm:** clear bilaterally  
**Abd:** non remarkable  
**GU:** clear urine on Foley catheter  
**Neuro:** obtunded, no responding to pain, no focalizing  
**Extremities/skin:** no edema, palpable pulses

### Notable Labs & Imaging:

#### Hematology:

WBC: 2.7 ( Neutro: 2.5, Lympho 0.1, Monocytes 0.1) Hgb: 12.6 HCT: 37.8 Plt: 227

#### Chemistry:

Na: 131 K: 3.4 Cl: 93 CO2:24 HCO3: BUN: 22 Cr: 0.7 glucose: 133 Ca: 8.5 protein: 6.5 AST: 28 ALT: 19 Alk-P: 67 Albumin: 3.1 Total Bilir: 0.7, D. Bilir: 0.1 Lactate 2.4 → 1.3 Troponin: 2

UA: SG 1.029, pH 5, 2+ protein, - glucose, - ketones, - bilirubin, 2+ urobili, 2-5 WBC < 3 RBCs per HPF

INR 1.2, CPK 2.01, TSH 1.63, acetaminophen <10, ETOH: <10, urine drug screen: neg

LP: WBC 132 (54% neu 36% leuc), prot 226, gluc 25.

#### Imaging:

**EKG:** Sinus bradycardia w/49 bpm, TWI in III, AVF, Qtc 543, LVH  
**CT head:** hypodensities in cerebellum → probably chronic infarcts (no comparison) // **CT chest:** peripheral GGO's, contusion R side, few pulmonary nodules, lower lobe nodule 1.4 cm  
**CT abdomen:** unremarkable

**HIV :** + viral load PCR 1.26k copies cd4 9 21%

**LP:** crypto antigen 1: 1280

Non-reactive VDRL, JC virus, MTB (-)

**Dx:** Newly diagnosed HIV + Cryptococcal meningitis (started on amphotericin B + flucytosine, serial LPs to manage ICP).

**Problem Representation:** A 30 yo M was found obtunded with altered mental status, being minimally responsive. He was administered naloxone and empiric antibiotics. His vital signs revealed a hypothermia and bradycardia. He had isolated leukopenia and pathological CT head & chest findings. LP results were concerning for meningitis.

### Teaching Points (Shreyas):

- AMS** approach: **MIST** (metabolic, infectious, structural, toxins); when was the patient's last known normal, time duration, events prior and post AMS are helpful clues on initial evaluation.
- It is **useful to create a problem list:** AMS + low HR + low RR + low BP + low temperature as in our case! **Hypothermia** has the least extensive differential (**MCC= exposure related**). Hypothermia can be a cause of bradycardia, but we must explore all causes!
- Pinpoint pupils + abrasions + AMS is concerning for an intracranial pathology 2° to **trauma**.
- Ddx (Hypothermia):** 1/ **Loss of heat** to environment ; 2/ **Loss of heat d/t vasodilation** 2° to sepsis 3/ Medication induced **impairment of shivering/anorexia/neurologic signalling/hypothyroidism [heat generation]** (esp- antipsychotics). **Hypothermia ≠ AMS!** For our patient: Rx for sepsis, environment exposure, and non hypothermic causes
- Ddx (Pinpoint pupils):** 1/ **Pontine hemorrhage** 2/ **Opioid overdose** ; Small pupils - **excessive parasympathetic tone** (cholinergic toxicity) and **loss of sympathetic tone** (Horner's). Loss of tone - U/L, CN III lesion- U/L. Parasympathetic ↑ (generally B/L): Toxins, opiates/cholinergic meds, hypothermia
- Isolated leukopenia:** 1/**Infection:** HIV, Sepsis 2/ **Autoimmune:** lupus 3/ **Drugs:** Antithyroid drugs
- Malignancy:** LGL
- Massive proteinuria: Think nephrotic syndrome!
- LP with **low glucose and neutrophil predominance**- we think of bacterial meningitis. MCC of bacterial meningitis = Strep pneumo. Lung nodules + meningitis is concerning for TB, and histoplasmosis. AMS + meningitis also makes us think of Cryptococcus!
- TB/ Crypto/Syphilis** can cause vascular damage d/t **extension of arachnoiditis** leading to **infarcts**.
- Rx of Cryptococcal meningitis: Amphotericin B + flucytosine f/b fluconazole long term. Serial LPs help with elevated ICP in cryptococcal meningitis.