

10/23/24 Morning Report with @CPSolvers

“One life, so many dreams” Case Presenter: Siddharth Patel Case Discussants: Sharmin Shekarchian (@sharminzi) and Hee Mun (@heemun8)

CC: 55 y/o F AA presented to the OP clinic for **diffuse pruritic rash of 24hrs**

HPI: The rash started **48 hrs** after the 3rd dose (1st booster) of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna).

Previously she had an allergic reaction to penicillin, but none to any of the vaccines including the previous 2 doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

3 mm punch biopsy on R medial leg was taken.

Patient started on topical mometasone cream, oral prednisone & hydroxyzine.

48 hrs later (Day 5 of rash onset): Rash **worsened** - larger with persistent itching, burning & b/l ankle pain

PMH:
Back pain for months

Meds:
Gabapentin

Fam Hx:
n/a
Soc Hx: n/a

Health-Related Behaviors:
n/a
Allergies:
Penicillin

Vitals: T: 98.6F HR: 82 BP: 128/72 RR: 20/min SpO2: 97% on RA

Exam:

Gen: no mucocutaneous involvement

HEENT: no lymphadenopathy

Abd: no abd pain or hepatomegaly

Extremities/skin: maculopapular, erythematous, non-blanching lesions predominantly on b/l UE & LE. Few scattered lesions on chest & back.

48hrs later: **Coalescing erythematous patches with palpable purpura involving UE & LE.**

Some of the lesions developed desquamation. New maculopapular lesions with occasional vesicles were also observed. Normal ankle exam.

Notable Labs & Imaging:

Hematology:

WBC: 12k eosinophil:0 Hgb: 12.7 Plt: 473

Chemistry:

Na, K, Cl, HCO3:WNL BUN: 19 Cr: 0.8 CRP:4.2

DDimer:8 Glucose, Ca, Mag: WNL

AST, ALT, Alk-P, Albumin, Total Protein: WNL

PT,PTT,INR: wnl

Hepatitis panel, Blood culture, HIV, ANA, Cryoglobulin, ANCA: -ve

RPR : -ve Complement level: wnl

Urinalysis: normal

Imaging:

US: -ve for any DVT of LE

Skin biopsy:

Neutrophilic infiltration of dermal blood vessels



10 days since the onset of rash



45 days since the onset of rash



Problem Representation: 55y/o AA F who recently received 3rd COVID-19 vax presented with diffuse pruritic rash for 24hrs. Rash is maculopapular, erythematous, non-blanching, worsened & coalesced→ erythematous patches w/palpable purpura & desquamation. No other S&S. Skin biopsy revealed neutrophilic infiltration of dermal blood vessels → Leukocytoclastic vasculitis due to COVID-19 vax

Teaching Points:

Approach to rash: “what company does the rash keep?”

- Time course
- Exposures
- Distribution, extent, depth
- Associated symptoms and systemic signs?
- Characterization: blanching vs non-blanching? Palpable, non-palpable?

Anti-racism: teaching on dermatologic conditions emphasizes lighter skin tones leading to frequent misdiagnosis for people with darker skin

Non-blanching rash: extravasation of blood vessels

- ddx broad: vasculitides, immunologic, infectious, drug reaction

Palpable purpura: vasculitis vs non vasculitis

- Vasculitis: LCV, IgA, cryoglobulinemia, ANCA-associated (GPA, EGPA, MPA), CTD associated (SLE, Sjogren’s), HCV, HBV
- Non-vasculitis: meningococemia, gonococcal, rickettsia, endocarditis, drug reactions

Cutaneous small vessel vasculitis: limited to skin, have to rule out other organic involvement

- Path: leukocytoclastic vasculitis (neutrophilic infiltration of vessels)
- Ddx:
 - Systemic vasculitides: ANCA associated, IgA (HSP), cryoglobulin
 - Rule out GN with UA, check complements
 - Infectious
 - Drug reactions, including vaccines
- Treatment: discontinue, drug, treat infection, and steroids