
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

SLE

- Autoimmune disorder
- Cellular damage bcs of Auto-Abs n Immune-complexes

SLE: Etio-pathogenesis

Susceptibility Genes

- HLA II DR, DQ; Homozygous def of early complements (C1q, C'2 n C'4), female gender

Environmental Factors

- Estrogen containing OCPs, UV light exposure, EBV infection

Immune activation

- Hyper-reactivity and Hypersensitivity of T and B lymphocytes

Auto-Abs n Immune complexes

- Release of Chemotaxins, vasoactive peptides, and destructive enzymes into the tissues
- Sequestration n destruction of Ig-coated cells

SLE: Histopathology

- Skin Biopsy → T cell infiltrate at DEJ, perivascular and around appendages
→ Ig deposition at DEJ
- Renal Biopsy → Class I (MMLN)
→ Class II (MesPGN)
→ Class III (FLN): A, C, A/C
→ Class IV (DLN): S/G for A, C, A/C
→ Class V (MGP)
→ Class VI (DGS)

Clinical Manifestations

■ Musculoskeletal:

→ Non-erosive Polyarthrititis

If erosions....some alternative diagnosis (? RA)

If monoarthrititis...Ischemic bone necrosis
(Steroids for SLE n not disease activity)

Hand deformity only in 10%

→ Myalgia/ MyositisAlso consider Steroid
and Anti-malarial (HCQS) myopathy

Clinical Manifestations

■ Muco-Cutaneous/Lupus Dermatitis:

i) DLE ii) SCLE iii) Others

DLE → circular, raised erythematous lesions with hyperpigmented rims & central atrophy

→ 5 % of pts with DLE....have SLE

→ 20% Of pts with SLE....have DLE

Photosensitivity → V-region of neck, upper back, extensor surfaces of arms

Malar Rash & recurrent oral ulcers

Clinical Manifestations



Clinical Manifestations

■ Renal/ Lupus Nephritis:

All pts to have urine analysis

Kidney biopsy if active urinary sediments/
proteinuria

Histologic Class I-VI

Class IV → ESRD in 2 years (if untreated)

Better prognosis for Nephrotic synd as
compared to Nephritic synd

Clinical Manifestations

■ CNS/ PNS:

Unexplained Psychosis → At Presentation,
during Acute flare-up n ...Steroid induced (1st
week and > 40 mg/d of prednisolone)

Unexplained seizures

ATM

Mononeuritis Multiplex, Peripheral neuropathy

Clinical Manifestations

- Vascular occlusion:

TIA, CVA, ACS

CVA.... Vasculitic, aPL-Ab(APLA synd),
Libman-Sachs endocarditis asso.

- Resp.:

Pleuritis (with or without effusion)

ILD

Intra-alveolar hemorrhage

Clinical Manifestations

■ Cardiac:

Pericarditis (MC)

Myocarditis

Fibrinous endocarditis of Libman-Sachs

(Valvular insuff or embolic events)

■ Hemat:

NCNC Anemia of Chr ds, Hemolytic anemia

Leukopenia

TCP

Clinical Manifestations

■ GIT:

Autoimm Peritonitis

Hypertransaminasemia

Mesenteric vasculitis..... Ischemia, bleeding,
perforation, sepsis

■ Ocular:

Sicca synd & non-sp. Conjunctivitis

Retinal vasculitis

Optic neuritis

Diagnostic Criteria: ACR (4/11)

1. Malar rash
2. Discoid rash
3. Photosensitivity
4. Oral ulcers
5. Non-erosive arthritis (≥ 2 joints)
6. Serositis
7. Renal... > 0.5 g/d proteinuria or cellular cast
8. Neurologic...unexplained psychosis/seizures
9. Hemat...hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, TCP
10. Immunologic...Anti-dsDNA, Anti-Sm, aPL Ab
11. ANA (absence of drugs known to induce)

Lab tests

■ For diagnosis:

1. ANA: + in 95% of cases
2. Anti-dsDNA: specific for SLE, Lupus Nephritis, high titers during Ac. Flare-up
3. aPL Ab: not specific for SLE, venous/arterial thrombosis, fetal loss, TCP
4. Std (routine) lab tests

Lab tests

■ For Ac. Flare-up

1. Tests that indicate status of organ involved such as Hb, Pl count, KFT, Urine R/M, LFT
2. Others → Anti-dsDNA titer, C'3 complement levels, Anticardiolipin Ig G

Treatment

- Non-life threatening events/ Potentially reversible organ damage

- Arthralgia/ Arthritis

NSAIDs: renal dysfun esp if asso lupus nephritis

Antimalarials: retinal toxicity, ototoxicity,
Peripheral neuropathy

Systemic steroids (low dose-0.07-0.3mg/Kg)

Methotraxate: BM suppression, pulm fibrosis

Treatment

➤ Malar rash/ Discoid rash/ Photosensitivity/
Oral ulcers

Topical sunscreen (SPF at least 15): contact
dermatitis

Systemic retinoids: congenital fetal anomalies

Topical glucocorticoids

Methotrexate : BM suppression, Pulm fibrosis,
hepatotoxic

Treatment

■ Life-threatening SLE

➤ Proliferative forms of Lupus Nephritis (Class III, IV & V)

Methyl Pred. 1g iv q 24h X 3d

f/b Oral Pred. 0.5-1 mg/Kg qd X 4-6 weeks f/b

Oral Pred. 5-10 mg qd (low dose maintenance)

+

Cyclophosphamide 500mg/m² monthly X 6 mths

treatment

side-effects of therapy:
systemic glucocorticoids →
infections
HTN & volume overload
psychosis
hyperglycemia
osteoporosis

reatment

side-effects:

cyclophosphamide→

BM suppression

gonadal failure

hemorrhagic cystitis

in a urinary bladder

alopecia

reatment

eventive therapies: usually for S/E of
eroids n cytotoxic agents

d. Influenza n Pneumococcal vaccine

/t for Osteoporosis, HTN n Dyslipidemia

revention of UTI (adeq fluid intake n local
ygiene)

Diagnostic factors

Serum Creatinine > 1.4 mg%

TN

Nephritic synd >> Nephrotic synd

PL Ab + status

Leading causes of death → systemic disease

activity, CKD, Infections

En Special Situations

Pregnancy n Lupus→

recurrent fetal losses: LMWH increases chances of fetal survival

high chances in aPL Ab+ status or Nephritis

higher steroid requirement as placental dehydrogenase deactivates prednisolone

Neonatal lupus (skin rash + heart blocks)

S/E of prednisolone on fetus: ↓ BW CNS

En Special Situations

pus n APLA synd→

/o venous or arterial thrombosis and/or
ecurrent fetal losses & aPL + at least on
two separate occasions

Max : long-term Anticoag, Target INR= 3.0

Microvascular thrombotic crisis (TTP/HUS)

Tissue damage in Brain n Kidney, high
mortality, usually young pts with Nephritis

/t : Plasma exchange/Plasmapheresis ; No

Drug induced Lupus

ANA + with fever, arthritis, rash n serositis
differentiated from SLE as....dsDNA only rarely +

-less female predilection

-resolves over weeks

- after offending drug withdrawn

Drug induced Lupus

Drugs....

Anticonvulsants → Carbamazepine, Phenytoin

Antipsychotics → Lithium

Antithyroid → PTU

AntiHTN → ACEI, Thiazides, β -blockers,
Hydralazine

Anti-arrhythmics → Procainamide, Propafenone

Experimental therapies for SLE

against T cell-B cell interaction:

Anti CD40L Ab, Anti CTLA4-Ig fusion prot.

Anti CD20 Ab

against Complement syst:

Anti C'5 Ab

ARE YOU DONE WITH
SLE(EPING) ???

ANY QUESTIONS ?

