hemostatic effect. For uncontrolled hypoxia, he was transfused to the ICU and intubated.
Pulmonary bleeding stopped after rFVIIa administration iv.
Bronchoscopy on day 8 was negative for bleeding. He was depending on mechanical ventilation but the arterial oxygen pressure (pO2)/(FiO2) ratio increased the following day.
Over the next 10 days, the situation improved and pt was discharged from the ICU.
No thromboembolic complications were observed after administration of rFVIIa i.v.

Conclusion.– This case suggests that in levamisole-adulterated cocaine induced syndrome, severe lung and renal involvement can occur and rFVIIa i.v. should be considered in severe DAH not responding to therapy.

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A49
ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) and thrombotic microangiopathies (TMA): A retrospective histological study
L. Manenti1, E. Gnappi1, L. Signorini1, F. Pilato2, A. Vaglio1, C. Buzio1
1. Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria di Parma, Nephrology Department, Parma, Italy
2. Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria di Parma, Pathology Department, Parma, Italy

Introduction.– A number of case reports of vasculitides with associated TMA are progressively reported in the literature. Moreover studies in animal models suggest that complement activation is crucial in the pathogenesis of ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) [1], supplying a possible predisposing pabulum for TMA appearance. At our knowledge no data are available describing the possible association between vasculitis and TMA. We studied retrospectively our historical AAV cases to document the presence of histological signs of TMA.

Patients.– We retrospectively examined a series of 39 consecutive patients diagnosed with renal biopsy as having AAV between 1990 and 2012. Patients had a mean follow-up of 86 months. Renal histology was reviewed by an independent pathologists, blinded for renal outcome.

Results.– Ten out of thirty-nine patients died during follow-up. Six out of thirty-nine (15%) patients were identified as having clear signs of TMA. Four out of six patients of the TMA group had often an associated histological evidence of fibrinoid necrosis while the non TMA group presented an overall greater risk for renal failure on the basis of recently risk stratification scores in renal vasculitis; nonetheless the TMA group showed a significantly worse renal outcome (P < 0.05) (figure 1).

Discussion.– Our preliminary data suggests that, similarly to other glomerulonephritis, TMA should be evaluated as an associated histological pattern in renal vasculitis. TMA seems to determine a worse renal prognosis; consequently recognition of TMA associated features may allow a more appropriate management (i.e plasmapheresis) of acute renal failure in these cases.

Reference

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A50
The relative risk of aortic aneurysm in patients with giant cell arteritis compared with the general population of the UK
J. Robson1, A. Kiran1, J. Maskell1, A. Hutchings3, N. Arden1
B. Dasgupta4, W. Hamilton5, D. Culliford2, A. Emin6, R. Luqmani1
1. University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
2. University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
3. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
4. Southend University Hospital NHS Trust, Southend, United Kingdom
5. University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom
6. The Royal College of Surgeons, London, United Kingdom

Introduction.– Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common systemic vasculitis; small studies have demonstrated 22% of these patients will develop an aortic aneurysm [1]. The British Society of Rheumatology and the European League Against Rheumatism has highlighted the need for a precise estimate of the increased risk of aortic aneurysm to inform definitive advice regarding screening of patients with GCA [2,3].

Patients.– This parallel cohort study includes 6999 patients with GCA from the UK General Practice Research Database (GPRD). Non-GCA patients were matched on a 6:1 ratio on: GP practice, year of birth and gender. A competing risk model using aortic aneurysm as the primary outcome and death as the competing risk was used to determine the relative risk (subhazard ratio) between non-GCA and GCA subjects, after adjustment for cardiovascular risk factors.

Results.– Comparing the GCA cohort with the non-GCA cohort; after adjustment for BMI, smoking, alcohol, hyperlipidaemia, lipid lowering medication, hypertension, anti-hypertensives, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease and peripheral vascular disease; the subhazard ratio for aortic aneurysm (95% CI) was 1.92 (1.52 to 2.41). Significant predictors of aortic aneurysm were as follows: being a smoker 3.37 (2.61 to 4.37), previous history of diabetes 0.32 (0.19 to 0.56) and previous history of cardiovascular disease 1.98 (1.50 to 2.63). In a multivariable model of the GCA cohort alone, male gender 2.10 (1.38 to 3.19), smoking 3.79 (2.20 to 6.53), and diabetes 0.19 (0.05 to 0.77) were significant predictors of aortic aneurysm.

Discussion.– This is the largest cohort study of patients with GCA to date, and demonstrates a two-fold increased risk of aortic aneurysm. Other risk factors for aortic aneurysm, including male gender, age, and smoking, and a protective effect of diabetes, are however also important in GCA patients.

Conclusion.– GCA should be considered within the context of other risk factors for aortic aneurysm, rather than needing separate screening.
Risk of cardiovascular disease early and late after a diagnosis of giant cell arteritis

G. Tomasson1, C. Peloquin2, A. Mohammad3, T. Love4, Y. Zhang2, H.K. Choi5, P.A. Merkel5

1. University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
2. Boston University, Boston, USA
3. Skane University Hospital, Lund, Sweden
4. Landspitali University Hospital, Reykjavik, Iceland
5. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

Introduction. – Despite well-documented involvement of large vessels in giant cell arteritis (GCA), the risk of clinically important cardiovascular events is not known. The objective was to evaluate the risk of incident myocardial infarction (MI), cerebrovascular accidents (CVA), and peripheral vascular disease (PVD) in individuals with incident GCA in a general population context.

Methods. – We conducted a cohort study using a UK primary care database containing records from 1986 to 2011. GCA diagnoses, outcomes, and cardiovascular risk factors were identified from electronic medical records. We conducted separate sub-cohort analyses for:

– MI;
– CVA;
– PVD, excluding individuals with prevalent disease at baseline for each analysis.

We estimated hazard ratios (HRs) comparing GCA with age-, sex-, and entry time-matched comparison cohorts, adjusting for potential cardiovascular risk factors.

Results. – Among 3533 individuals with GCA (73% female, mean age 73 years), the incidence rates (IRs) of MI, CVA, and PVD were 10.0, 8.0 and 4.2 per 1000 person-years (PY), versus 4.9, 6.3 and 2.0 per 1000 PY in the comparison cohort. The corresponding adjusted HRs were 1.97 (95% CI 1.42 to 2.75) for MI, 1.77 (95% CI 1.24 to 2.53) for CVA and 2.76 (95% CI 1.75 to 4.36) for PVD. These HRs were more pronounced in the first month after the diagnosis of GCA: MI (HR = 11.89, 95% CI: 2.40–59.00), CVA (HR = 3.93, 95% CI: 1.76–8.79), and PVD (HR = 3.86, 95% CI: 0.78–19.17).

Conclusion. – These findings provide the first general population-based evidence that GCA is associated with an increased risk of developing MI, CVA, and PVD. Further research into the causes of this increased risk in GCA, including how current medications used in GCA may alter cardiovascular risk, would be valuable.

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