

Cutaneous Clues to Rheumatic Diseases in Children



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Objectives

- Recognize subtle cutaneous signs of rheumatic disease
- Recognize different features of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis
- Recognize cutaneous complications of rheumatic diseases and treatments.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

I have no conflict of interest to report.

Case 1- facial rash

- 4 yo with a facial rash x 5 days
- low grade fever
- LABS:
 - WBC 3800, Hb 9.5
 - LFT nl; ESR 40
- DX ??



Case 1- facial rash

- 4 yo with a facial rash x 5 d
- DX: **Parvovirus B19 infection**
 - = 5th Disease
 - epidemic viral illness
 - facial rash, lacy trunk rash
 - children - low grade fever, arthralgias (20%); diffuse rash
 - adults - fever, small joint polyarthritis (80%); little rash
 - anemia (RBC arrest) >> leukopenia
 - esp. red cell defects
 - ex: Sickle cell disease



Viral arthritis

- Many different viruses
 - Parvovirus, rubella, hepatitis B,C
 - cryoglobulinemia
 - EBV, CMV, adenovirus, coxsackie
- Arthralgia > arthritis
 - "Toxic synovitis"
- Associated with fever, exanthem
- Migratory x 1- 6 wks
 - Rarely persistent
 - except immunocompromised hosts
 - Non-erosive




Clues for the PCP

- Arthritis usually transient
 - + associated viral syndrome
 - Quick response to NSAIDs
 - Recurrences uncommon
- Rash
 - Typical viral exanthem to vasculitic
- Labs:
 - near normal or
 - inflammatory markers high


Case 2- facial rash

- 13 yo w/ facial rash x 2 wks
- low grade fever
- joints ache, stiff in a.m. x 4 wks
- fatigue x 6 wks
- LABS:
 - WBC 3800, Hb 9.5
 - LFT nl; ESR 40
- Dx ??



Case 2- facial rash

- 13 yo w/ facial rash + systemic symptoms
- DX: **Systemic lupus erythematosus**
 - 20% onset before 20 yo
 - 70% with photosensitivity
 - 80% with rashes
 - Organ system involvement:
 - 50% develop nephritis
 - 90% have arthritis
 - 80% with cytopenia




SLE Criteria

- Malar rash
- Discoid rash
- Photosensitivity
- Oral/nasal ulcers
- + ANA
- + specific serology
 - Anti-DS-DNA
 - APS
 - Anti-Smith ab
- Renal involvement
- CNS involvement
 - Seizures or psychosis
- Non-erosive arthritis
- Serositis
 - Pericarditis
 - Pleuritis
- Hematologic involvement
 - cytopenias

○ > 4/11 are 88% specific


SLE - cutaneous findings

- **Malar rash**
 - over bridge of nose
 - skips nasolabial folds
- similar to rash of:
 - dermatomyositis
 - Fifth disease
 - rosacea (adult acne)
- **Discoid lupus**
 - Scarring rash
 - malar, scalp, ears
 - photosensitive
 - Rx: injections of steroids



SLE - cutaneous findings

- **Photosensitivity**
 - new onset
 - lifelong sun sensitivity does not count
- other causes:
 - other autoimmune illnesses (dermatomyositis)
 - Medications
 - antibiotics, hormones, steroids
 - prior severe sunburn




SLE - Treatment

- Avoid sun
 - 70% are photosensitive
 - Sunscreen to block UV light
 - > 35-40 SPF preferred
 - Daily sunscreen, sunblock
 - products w/ zinc oxide/titanium dioxide
 - physical blocking agents
 - provide protection from UVa & UVb light
- Topical medications
 - Corticosteroids
 - Tacrolimus, pimecrolimus
- Anti-malarials – usually hydroxychloroquine
- Others: dapsone, colchicine

Clues for the PCP

- Malar rash may present as subtle flush only
- discoid LE lesions:
 - Hide in external ear
 - May mimic psoriasis or ringworm
 - May be sole manifestation in some; only 20% evolve to SLE
- Discoid and malar rashes spare nasolabial fold
- more severe rash requires dermatologist input




Distinguishing Parvovirus from SLE

- Age/epidemiology of patient/family
 - 5th dis: younger child; + exposure hx
- Rash characteristics
 - Parvo: slapped cheek, lacy body rash, few other sx
 - vs SLE: older pt; facial rash + systemic sx
- Hematologic parameters
 - Parvo: effects on RBC >> WBC, platelets; no retics
 - vs SLE: WBC >> RBC, platelets; w/ hemolysis - ↑ retics
- Arthritis manifestations
 - Parvo: migratory arthralgias younger; hand arthritis older pt
 - vs SLE: variable inflammatory, persistent polyarthritis
- Hepatitis
 - Parvo: common; transient, occasionally severe
 - vs SLE: occasionally seen
- Time course
 - Parvo: transient; resolves w/in 4-6 weeks in > 90%
 - vs SLE: indolent onset, worsening over 4-12 weeks



Case 3 - infant with facial rash

- 3 week old baby has facial rash x 2 wks
- seems well otherwise
- no pregnancy or neonatal complications
- LABS:
 - WBC 3800, Hb 9.5
 - LFT nl; platelets 110,000
- DX ??




Case 3 - infant with rash

- 3 wk old w/ facial, scalp rash
- DX: **neonatal lupus**
 - 5-10% of mothers w/ SS-A, SS-B ab
 - 50% no hx SLE or Sjogren's
 - 1/2 will go to definite dx in 10 yrs time
 - 10-20% recurrence risk with subsequent pregnancies

Case 3 - infant with rash

- Neonatal LE
 - rash on face/trunk
 - discoid or SCLE
 - + SS-A, SS-B with SCLE
 - annular or blistering lesions
 - Congenital HB
 - serious - 3rd^o → pacemaker
 - hepatitis, serositis, cytopenia
 - Rash ↑ w/ phototherapy
- Known hi risk mother:
 - check SS-A, SS-B
 - High risk OB
 - fetal echo @ 16 wks gestation
 - ? role for high dose steroids



Case 4- facial rash

- 11 yo w/ facial rash x 3 wks
- fever, fatigue x 2 wks
- trouble doing nl activities
 - soccer, karate class
 - going to school
- LABS:
 - CBC nl, ESR 10
 - ALT 90, AST 90
- DX ??



Case 4- facial rash

- 11 yo w/ facial rash, trouble with ADLs
- DX: **Juvenile Dermatomyositis**
 - 20% onset in childhood
 - no malignancy association
 - 15% adult DM
 - muscle and skin features vary
 - muscle involvement alone = polymyositis



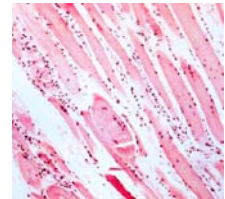
JDM – Labs, Course

- Clinical features:
 - Symmetrical proximal weakness
 - Rash in DM:
 - Heliotrope, facial edema
 - Gottron's papules - violaceous
 - Hands, elbows, knees, extensor
 - Arthritis/arthralgia
 - Dysphagia, dysphonia
 - = medical urgency
- Labs:
 - CK, aldolase, LDH, ALT/AST > 99%
 - ANA in 50%; ESR nl in most



JDM - Criteria

- Inflammatory muscle disease:
 - weakness, ↑ muscle enzymes,
 - abnl EMG, MRI &/or muscle biopsy
- Classification
 - I Primary idiopathic PM
 - II Primary idiopathic DM
 - III PM (7%) or DM (15%) with malignancy
 - IV Childhood DM >>> PM
 - V PM or DM w/ another CTD
 - VI Miscellaneous types
 - inclusion body



JDM - Complications

- No malignancy association
 - 7-15% adult myositis
- > 60% do well w/ long remissions
- calcinosis prominent
 - 30-50% if not treated aggressively in 4 mos of dx
- lipodystrophy - late feature
 - loss of SubQ fat
 - insulin resistance
 - Hyperlipidemia, HTN




JDM - Treatment

- High dose steroids
 - 2-3 mg/kg/day to start
 - Early Rx w/in 4 mos of onset prevents calcinosis
- anti-malarials
 - for skin
- Steroid sparing early in course
 - MTX
 - Cyclosporine
 - IVIG
 - ?Rituximab




Clues for the PCP

- Diagnosis:
 - Proximal weakness >> muscle pain
 - Heliotrope, periorbital edema may be very subtle
 - Gottron's papules may mimic eczema or psoriasis
 - Cuticle overgrowth and cuticle redness/swelling are VERY suggestive of JDM



Case 5 - hand rash


- 8 yo with red hand rash x 2 months
- Minimal response to OTC steroids
- feels fatigued, having trouble with some usual activities
- DX ??



Case 5 - hand rash


- 8 yo with red hand rash; having trouble w/ ADLs
- DX: **JDM**
 - with Gottron's papules and abnormal nailfold capillaries

Rash on knuckles





Case 6 - hand rash

- 15 yo w/ red rash on hands x 2 mos
- minimal response to OTC steroids
- feels fatigued, achy
- no fever, swelling, or edema
- DX ??



Case 6 - hand rash


- 15 yo w/ red rash on hands w/ systemic sx
- DX: **SLE**

Rash between knuckles
vasculitic rash on palms


Clues for the PCP

- **SLE hands**
 - red cuticles and rash BETWEEN knuckles
- **JDM hands**
 - cuticles
 - Red, overgrown
 - Rash ON knuckles
 - Gottron's scaly pink papules
 - classic capillary Δ
- **EITHER**
 - telangiectasias,
 - vasculitic lesions



Case 7 - hand rash

- 12 yo w/ red, scaly hand, toe rash x 9 mos
- some pain and stiffness in ankles, knees with a swollen knuckle x 1 month
- feels well otherwise
- LABS:
 - CBC nl, LFT nl; ESR 40
- DX ??





Case 7 - hand rash

- 12 yo w/ red, scaly hand rash, joint pain
- DX: **Psoriatic arthritis**
 - Psoriasis common
 - 2% of population
 - psoriatic arthritis in 10%
 - pts w/ psoriatic nails → arthritis in 30%
 - 20% w/ sacroiliitis



Diagnosis – Psoriatic arthritis


- 5 clinical subgroups
 - Groups may overlap
 - DIP arthritis w/ dactylitis
 - asymmetric oligoarthritis
 - RA-like distribution
 - RF negative
 - spondylitis
 - arthritis mutilans
 - Destructive, deforming
- extra-articular features:
 - Nails
 - Pits, "oil spots," onycholysis
 - uveitis
 - carditis rare
 - In spondylitis pts

Psoriatic arthritis



- Laboratory Findings
 - tests nl
 - ESR may be ↑
 - RF absent; ANA + in 30%
 - If RF + consider that RA and psoriasis can co-exist
 - HLA-B27 + in 50% of patients with spondylitis
 - 7-10% in others
 - = population norm

dactylitis




Psoriatic arthritis

- Outcome
 - Many do well
 - Degree of skin involvement ≠ arthritis or severity
 - Arthritis mutilans uncommon
 - destructive, erosive
 - "pencil in cup deformity"
- Treatment
 - NSAIDs
 - MTX, SSZ
 - Anti-TNF agents
 - Skin and nails improve too

Clues for the PCP

- Mono or oligo arthritis may → psoriatic arthritis
- May take 10 yrs for skin lesions to appear *after* arthritis in kids
 - Adults usually psoriasis 1st
 - umbilicus, ears, gluteal fold
- Family hx psoriasis suggests dx psoriatic arthritis even before rash
 - Consider: fungal vs psoriasis
 - Look for pits



Case 8 – body/extremity rash

- 9 yo with fluctuating rash on trunk, arms
- has had fevers for 3 weeks up to 103°
 - rash worse when fever is highest
- no joint swelling
- Won't walk in the am
- LABS:
 - WBC 18,000, Hb 9.5; ESR 95
 - Platelets 600,000, LFT nl
- DX ??



Case 8 – body/extremity rash

- 9 yo with fluctuating rash w/ fevers, joint sx
- DX: **Systemic Juvenile idiopathic arthritis**
 - 20% of JIA pts
 - Epidemiology:
 - > 300,000 children in US
 - More common than childhood diabetes
 - incidence 5-15 per 100,000
 - prevalence 60-200 per 100,000
 - Criteria:
 - <16 y, arthritis >6 wks
 - other possible causes ruled out



Classification- Juvenile Arthritis

- Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
 - Oligoarticular
 - RF+, RF-
 - Polyarticular
 - Systemic
 - Juvenile psoriatic arthritis
 - Enthesopathy associated arthritis
 - Juvenile ankylosing spondylitis
 - Undifferentiated

JIA - Dermatologic Issues

- systemic JIA
 - "salmon colored evanescent rash"
 - Worse with fevers
 - Koebner's phenomena
 - Rash after pressure/scratch
 - May: be pruritic, or coalesce



Systemic JIA – Clinical Features

- ≥ 1 joint, fever, rash (95%)
 - serositis (25-50%)
 - anemia, leukocytosis, thrombocytosis
 - hepatitis, coagulopathy
 - ANA + < 5%; RF -
- 50% remit by 1 year
- Late risks:
 - joints often = poly
 - 25% poor articular outcome
 - worse prognosis:
 - age at onset < 4 y
 - active dis 6 mos after onset



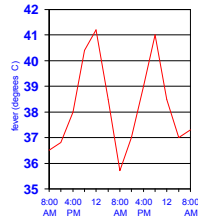
JIA – Other Dermatologic Issues

- polyarticular JIA
 - subcutaneous nodules
 - < 10% of JIA pts
 - locations: olecranon, pressure areas, over knuckles
 - rheumatoid vasculitis
 - rare complication of RF + subgroup
 - digital infarcts, purpura, gangrene



Clues for the PCP

- For systemic JIA
 - Fever pattern w/ high evening spikes
 - subnormal other times
 - r/o virus, malignancy
 - Monitor labs closely for coagulopathy, increased LFTs (MAS)
 - Avoid corticosteroids until dx certain or marrow assessed
 - Early referral to pediatric rheumatologist



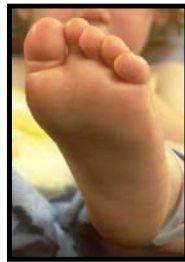
Case 9 – body/extremity rash

- 2 yo has a rash with fevers x 10 days
- hands and feet appear puffy
- diaper area reddened
- lips dry, cracked
- LABS:
 - WBC 18,000, Hb 9.5; ESR 95
 - Platelets 600,000, LFT nl
- DX ??



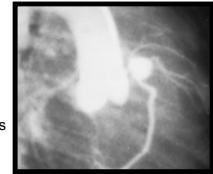
Case 9 - body rash

- 2 yo has a rash with fevers with mucosal changes
- **DX: Kawasaki Disease**
 - 2nd most common childhood vasculitis
 - Usually < 7 yo, M > F
 - Atypical, more severe when pt < 6 mos old, M
 - More risk Asian descent



Diagnosis - KD

- Fever *PLUS* 4 out of 5 criteria.
 - Spiking fever for at least 5 days
 - 1. **Bilateral conjunctival congestion**
 - 2. **Oropharyngeal involvement:**
 - Diffuse erythema, strawberry tongue, redness, lip change
 - 3. **Polymorphous erythematous rash**
 - 4. **Cervical lymphadenopathy**
 - 5. **One or more of following signs:**
 - Indurative edema hands, feet
 - Erythema of palms, soles
 - Desquamation ~ 2 wks after onset
 - Transverse grooves nails in 2 to 3 mos

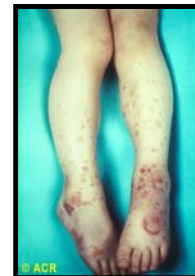


Clues for the PCP - KD

- Diagnostic clues:
 - high index suspicion
 - hi ESR; platelets climbing
 - very irritable, even w/o fever
 - sterile pyuria, rash on perineum
 - Echocardiogram early
 - Also check gall bladder for enlargement (hydrops)
- Rx
 - IVIG 2 g/kg
 - consider repeating if still fever, irritability after 24-36 hrs
 - ASA - hi dose short term; anti-platelet - 81 mg - long term
 - For IVIG failures: repeat IVIG, IV pulse steroids, ? CTX


Case 10 - body/extremity rash

- 13 yo boy w/ knee, ankle pain x 5 days
- now has small reddish purple spots on lower extremities.
- LABS:
 - CBC nl, coags, nl
 - ESR 15
 - LFT nl
- DX ??




Vasculitis – HSP

- 13 yo boy w/ joint pain, LE purpura
- DX: **Henoch Schonlein Purpura**
 - Small vessel vasculitis
 - Path: LCV
 - IgA deposits
 - dermal, mesangial, GI lesions
 - Purpura from waist down
 - Arthritis/peri-arthritis
 - GI vasculitis, bleeding, volvulus
 - Glomerulonephritis – IgA nephropathy
 - Testicular swelling/vasculitis



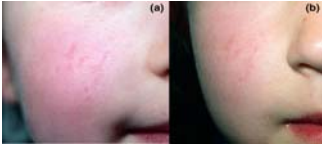
Vasculitis: Clues for the PCP

- Systemic illness with:
 - Rash, Fever
 - Small vessel = purpura
 - Medium vessel = organ problems
 - GI, brain, heart, nerve
 - renal artery = HTN
 - Large vessel = claudication
 - Labs - non-specific inflammation
 - Except ANCA
 - cANCA = Wegener's in 90%
 - Biopsy = dx
 - Angiogram
 - medium or large vessel vasculitis
- Treatment
 - varies w/ dx, organ involvement
 - Steroids, CTX, MTX




Dermatologic Complications - Medications

- NSAIDs - commonly used drugs
 - allergic rash
 - serum sickness w/ fever, arthritis
 - urticaria, maculopapular rash
 - pseudoporphyria
 - naproxen, nabumetone; others less common
 - Fair complexion; blistering in sun exposed areas
 - small scars fade to freckling




Complications - Medication

- Anti-malarial agents
 - hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine
 - for SLE, dermatomyositis, JIA
 - Rare, worrisome toxicity:
 - retinal pigment deposits
 - Chloroquine > risk
 - myopathy
 - hyperpigmentation:
 - face, mucosa, nails
 - Adjust dose
 - Minimize sun




Complications - Medication

- Cyclosporine
 - used for systemic JIA, occ. Poly JIA, JDM
 - controls systemic JIA
 - Synergistic w/ MTX
 - most worrisome SE:
 - renal dysfunction
 - hyperkalemia
 - infections
 - hirsutism
 - gingival hypertrophy



Complications - Medication

- Corticosteroids
 - for JIA, SLE, JDM, others
 - Toxicity: dose, route related
 - low dose < 0.25 mg/kg/d or < 10 mg/d
 - hi dose > 1 mg/kg/d or > 40 mg/d = ↑ risk SE
 - weight ↑, acne, striae, cataracts, HTN, DM
 - Hypopigmentation at site of steroid injections
 - Late: AVN, osteoporosis
 - topical ophthalmic steroids
 - use 2-3 x a day
 - glaucoma, cataracts



Unknown Case

- 11 yo boy with rash on and off x 6 weeks
- Not itchy or tender
- Fevers to 102° nightly w/ arthralgias for past 4 wks
- About 5 # weight loss
- No CP, SOB, abdominal pain, joint swelling
- LABS ordered ?
- DX ??



Unknown Case

- 8 yo girl w/ hand rash x 3 mos
- Minimal response to topical OTC steroids
- No other rash noted
 - did burn more easily during the summer (2 months ago)
- Slight ↓ activity level (not as fast when running)
- LABS ordered?
- DX ??



Summary

- Skin manifestations often clue to rheumatologic dx
- Subtle differences in distribution of rash, associated sx can give definitive dx
- Cutaneous complications of the illnesses and medication complications important part of disease monitoring
- PCP can work together w/ pediatric rheumatologist and dermatologist
- Optimize pt care and outcome

Any questions?

