Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis

– a differential diagnostic prangster

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Scope of today

Recognize the HLH child when you see it, it needs your action

- Definition of classic HLH
- Diagnosis
- Disease classification
- Handling and initial treatment
- Future aspects

HLH?

- Clinically mimics most often severe uncontrolled sepsis like infection
- Lethal disease characterized by "cytokine storm" due to absent cytotoxicity in T and NK-cells
- Rare disease with very few scientific studies
- Spectrum of diseases overlapping from primary lethal HLH to secundary HLH-like disease
- Diagnosis difficult but manageable

Primary HLH - pathophysiology

- Normal response to infections by release of cytotoxic granules from NK-cells and activated CD8+ T-cells to infected cell is defect
- Due to ongoing tissue damage more cytokines are released attracting more ineffective immunoactive cells further producing pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines (IFNγ, IL1β, IL6, IL12, IL18 and TNF-α)
- Activated macrophages produce Ferritin and cytokine storm. The products are thought to explain cytopenia, fever, hypertriglyceridemia and low fibrinogen.

Case - 5 week old boy

- 2nd child of consanguinous arab parents
- Day 1: admitted after 2 days of high fever
- Septic, meningitis?, bioch DIC
- Platelets 50; Neutrophiles 0.6; CRP 50
- Day 2: Platelets 12, Bilirubin 77, ascites, Ferritin 8.800.
- Bone marrow biopsy shows hemophagocytosis
- Day 3 multi organ failure, kept on ventilator
- Dexamethason and CyA

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- Day 4-5 lactate 15-36
- Etopofos, HLH 2004
- Day 6 clinically stable
- Day 90 HSCT, Bu-Flud, UCB
- Today: 3 years from SCT, no GvHD, neurologic seq (epilepsia)
- Dysfunctional perforin
- Compound heterozygous mutation in PRF1-gene (FHL2)





Ellen Brisse et al , Cytokine & amp; Growth Factor Reviews, 2014



Ellen Brisse et al , Cytokine & amp; Growth Factor Reviews, 2014



Known mutations in primary HLH

Gene	Location	Disease	Defect
PRF1	10q21-22	FHL2	Perforin
UNC13D	17q25	FHL3	Munc13-4
STX11	6q24	FHL4	Syntaxin-11
STXBP2	19p13	FHL5	Munc 18-2
Unknown	9q21.3-22	FHL1	?
LYST	1q42.1-42.2	Chediak-Higashi syndrome	LYST
RAB27A	15q21	Griscelli syndrome type 2	Rab27a
AP3B1	5q14.1	Hermansky-Pudlak type 2	β3A of AP3
SH2D1A	Xq24-26	XLP1	SAP
XIAP/BIRC4	Xq25	XLP2/X-linked HLH	XIAP

Defect granulation involved in albinism in Pakistani girl who later developed EBV-related HLH (Griscelli)



HLH, diagnostic criteria

- Known familial genetic defect or
- 5/8 clinical or biochemical criteria:
 - Fever
 - Splenomegaly
 - Cytopenia > 1 cell line
 - Raised triglycerids/ low fibrinogen
 - Ferritin > 500 microg/l
 - sCD25 > 2400 U/ml
 - Reduced or absent cytotoxicity
 - Hemophagocytosis



Classification

• Primary

- Familial (FHL1-5)
- X-linked lymphoproliferative disease (boys)
- Other inherited diseases with albinism (ie Griscelli)

Secundary HLH

- Malignancies (ie NHL, AML)
- Infections (ie EBV, Infl A+B, mycoplasma, Leishmania)
- Macrophage activating syndrome (MAS)
 - Rheumatological diseases (ie JIA, Kawasaki)

Clinical approach I

- Suspect the diasease!!!
- Timing is everything
- Any age, not only < 1 year
- Family history
- Sepsis like, EBV-like, flu-like, severe
 - Fever, unresponsive to treatment
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Ferritin!
 - CNS
- Follow the biochemistry daily
 - Hb, platelets, WBC, ferritin, D-Dimer, Triglycerids, Fibrinogen, CRP
- Extensive microbiology incl EBV-PCR

Clinical approach II

- Very challenging supportive care
- Timing is everything
- Broad spectrum ABs
- Refer to tertiar centre
 - Bone marrow evaluation, LBP, MRI
 - Perforin/Granzyme/sIL2r
 - Functional and genetic analyses
- Start treatment (HLH 2004)
- SCT in CR or PR



HLH 2004 protocol, induction



HLH 94-protocol, outcome



- N= 249 included
- 29% died before SCT
- 5-y pOS 0.56

Survival post SCT – DK per 06/2016

- 28 patients
- 68% boys
- 5 dead (TRM)
- 16 HLH
- 3 Chediak-Higashi
- 8 XLP
- 1 Griscelli



HLH survival post SCT



Marie Ouachée-Chardin et al. Pediatrics 2006

Case II: 15 months old boy

- Consanguinous parents
- Recurrent fever now 40. Pneumonia? Sepsis?
- Hb 4.5, Neutrophiles 2.6; Platelets 90
- Ferritin 14.200; Triglycerids 2.54, Fibrinogen 16.4, LDH 6450, Ddimer 6.9
- CRP 50
- FHL ?????

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- CRP 50
- Bone marrow biopsy: hemophagocytosis
- Lymphocyte subsets: CD3 1.5 (ratio 3.2), CD19 0.63, NK 0.048
- Perforin/Granzyme normal
- Dexametason 10 mg/m2, immediate improvement
- Normal degranulation assays
- Tapered dexa, normalized all biochemistry in 2 weeks

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HLH – future aspects

- National S.O.P Oct 2016
- Danish adult-pediatric network
 - Primary vs secondary HLH?
- International HLH registry
- Targeted anti-inflammatory treatment (anti-IFNγ), Jordan M et al, ASH 2015
- RIC-SCTs
- Neonatal screening
- Individualized treatment
- Gene therapy



HLH – collaborative studies needed







Patientinformation vedrørende international registrering af patientdata samt funktionelle og genetiske studier af immunsystemet i familier med mistænkt hæmofagocyterende lymfohistiocytose (HLH).

Med denne patientinformation vil vi gerne anmode om din/dit barns deltagelse i

- registrering af patientdata i internationalt HLH-register i Hannover
- en videnskabelig undersøgelse af immunsystemets funktion og eventuelle nedarvede sygdomsfremkaldende forandringer i arvematerialet (DNA).



ESID registry for HLH

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ASAID
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predisposing to HLH (all ages)Patients with active HLH that	is not secondary to			
 Patients with active HLH that 	is not secondary to			
Patients with active HLH that	is not secondary to			
	yumatological disease			
underlying conditions such as me	underlying conditions such as meumatological disease,			
INCLUSION CRITERIA malignancy, metabolic disease of	malignancy, metabolic disease or Leishmania infection			
(patients under 18 years of age	(patients under 18 years of age) (mostly "infection-			
ONIY" HLH)				
Patients (or their legal ren	rocontativos) baving			
· Patients (of their legal rep	iesentativesj naving			
provided informed consent				
Patients with malignancy Defineds with the summarial size (subsidiary states (subsidiary states))				
Patients with rheumatological/autoinmamatory/autoimmune disease Patients with metabolic diseases	Patients with metabolic diseases			
Patients with Leishmania infection				
No written consent available				
Initial registration:				
Form of HLH (preliminary classification)	Form of HLH (preliminary classification)			
Trigger of HLH	Trigger of HLH			
HLH clinical criteria	HLH clinical criteria			
Diagnostic assays performed	Diagnostic assays performed			
CNS disease				
DATA COLLECTED • HLH directed treatment				
Follow-up registration (1 year later)	Follow-up registration (1 year later)			
HSCT and time to HSCT	HSCT and time to HSCT			
Chimerism Outcome				
Uutcome Form of HLH / (incl clossification)				
Form of FLF (final classification) Disease-causing mutation	Disease-causing mutation			
Patient qualification for treatment study				

Suggested algorithm



K Lehmberg, S.Ehl, Br J Haem 2013

Cytokin storm leading to clinical HLH

Pathogenesis of Primary HLH *Defined in experimental models*

