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Poster Session III

Tuberculosis: clinical observations

CHANGES IN ULTRASOUND FINDINGS DURING TREATMENT FOR HIV/TB CO-INFECTION

M.T. Giordani¹, E. Brunetti², C. Stecca¹, P. Benedetti¹, T. Heller³

¹Infectious and Tropical Diseases Unit, San Bortolo Hospital, Vicenza, Italy ; ²Division of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, University of Pavia IRCCS San Matteo Hospital Foundation, Pavia, Italy ; ³Klinikum Muenchen-Perlach, Division of Internal Medicine, Munich, Germany

Objectives: Extrapulmonary and disseminated TB in HIV patients primarily affect individuals in Sub-Saharan Africa, but are also seen in immigrants living in Europe. Ultrasound (US) can detect suggestive findings such as enlarged abdominal lymph nodes, pleural and peritoneal effusions and focal lesions in the liver and spleen. In some resource-poor settings these findings are relied upon to start empiric TB treatment. However, changes in ultrasound findings during treatment of TB and HIV infection have never been studied. One would expect that the findings regress during treatment but the timing of their resolution is unknown. Additionally, initiation of ART treatment may lead to immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS). Here we investigate changes in US findings in EPTB-HIV co-infected patients during follow-up and their association with clinical findings.

Methods: 23 patients with culture-confirmed HIV-EPTB co-infection diagnosed and treated in our Hospital, from 2005-2013, were scanned using FASH (focused assessment with sonography for HIV) on follow-up visits at 1, 3, 6 and 12 months after diagnosis. Patients' characteristics were : mean age 34,47 (range 24-57), M/F 1.09 , 15 of them (65,21 %) African immigrants, mean CD4 119 (range 5-576).

Results: In 10 patients (43,47 %) FASH findings disappeared after 1 month of treatment, in 3 patients (13,04 %) they were less prominent at 1 month and disappeared after 3 months of treatment . All this 13 patients (56,52 %) successfully completed treatment of TB. In 10 patients (43,47%) FASH findings were more prominent after 1 month . Patients in whom this regression did not occur, were unresponsive to treatment because of MDR-TB, IRIS (3 cases, 13,04%), or had delayed treatment and severe immunosuppression. US signs were more remarkable and clinical outcome more severe in Sub-Saharan immigrants.

Conclusion: Early regression of HIV- EPTB US signs is a good prognostic indicator in patients with HIV-EPTB. IRIS seems to have a peculiar US pattern. US protocols for HIV-EPTB co-infection and their use in follow-up should be evaluated in prospective studies.