Kingdom of Bahrain Arabian Gulf University College of Medicine and Medical Sciences

Medicine and Medical Sci

Rheumatology

- Henoch-Schonlein purpura:

• It is an IgA-mediated vasculitis common in males with median age of onset at 5 years. It is usually preceded by an URTI.

• Clinical features:

- ✓ <u>Skin</u>: non-thrombocytopenic palpable purpura especially on buttocks and lower extremities. Edema might also be found in feet, scrotum, hand and scalp.
- ✓ <u>Joints</u>: arthralgia or arthritis in 80% of patients (commonly knee and ankle joints are involved).



- ✓ <u>GI</u>: colicky abdominal pain, GI bleeding and increased risk of intussusceptions.
- ✓ <u>Renal</u>: microscopic/macroscopic hematuria (80%); nephrotic syndrome (rare).



• Investigations:

- ✓ Notice that diagnosis is mainly based on history and physical examination.
- ✓ Normal platelet count!
- ✓ Increased serum IgA (only in 50% of patients).
- Management: steroids. Most patients will recover within 4 weeks.

- Kawasaki disease:

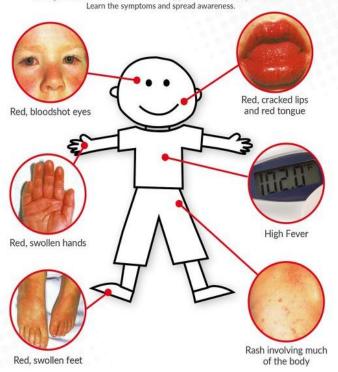
- It is an acute febrile vasculitis occurring more in males of Asian ethnicity at a mean age of 18 months 24 months.
- Diagnostic criteria:
 - Fever ≥ 5 days with four of the following "CREAM":
 - ❖ C: Conjunctivitis (bilateral, non-exudative).
 - ❖ *R*: Rash (eryhtematous, maculopapular).
 - ❖ E: Extremities (peeling 1 week after onset of fever).
 - ❖ *A*: Adenopathy (cervical, unilateral).
 - ❖ M: Mucosal changes (strawberry-tongue).



Kawasaki Disease Symptoms

Kawasaki Disease is a serious illness that mostly affects young children and causes inflammation of the body and coronary arteries. If left untreated it could cause serious damage to the heart - that could be easily prevented with early treatment.





• **Complication**: coronary artery aneurysm occurring in 20% of patients. Notice that even if they are large, they will regress with treatment and mortality rate is < 1%. Another complication is hydrops of gallbladder.

• Clinical course of the disease, investigations and management:

	Acute phase (1-2 weeks)	Sub-acute phase (weeks-months)	Convalescent phase (weeks-years)
Investigations	↑ESR, ↑CRP	†platelet count	Lab values normalize within 6-8 weeks
Management	IV immunoglobulin + high-dose aspirin (for anti- inflammatory effect)	IV immunoglobulin + low-dose aspirin (for anti-platelet effect)	Continue low-dose aspirin only if aneurysm remains

Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA):

• It is a chronic inflammation of joints in children commonly occurring in females between the age of 1-3 years.

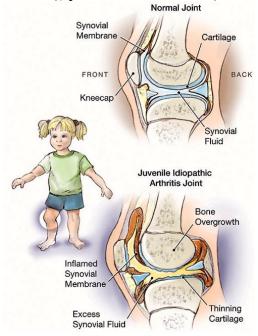
• Classification:

Pauciarticular (≤ 4 joints are involved); not necessarily symmetrical; 40% of cases	Polyarticular (> 4 joints are involved); symmetrical; 40% of cases	Systemic (still's disease); 20% of cases
Sub-classified to: • Early-onset (1-5 years): ✓ Females ✓ Positive ANA (75%) ✓ 50% have chronic uveitis • Late-onset (> 8 years): ✓ Males ✓ HLA-B27 ✓ Involvement of hip and sacroiliac joints	Sub-classified to: • RF-negative: presenting early and late in childhood. • RF-positive: ✓ > 8 years. ✓ Higher risk of severe arthritis.	 High spiking fevers (> 39C) accompanied with salmon-colored rash. Hepatosplenomegaly. Lymphadenopathy.

• Investigations:

- ✓ Hypochromic microcytic anemia (anemia of chronic disease).
- ✓ ↑ ESR, CRP and platelets.
- ✓ RF (-) in majority of patients.
- **Management**: NSAID's (\primet pain and inflammation).





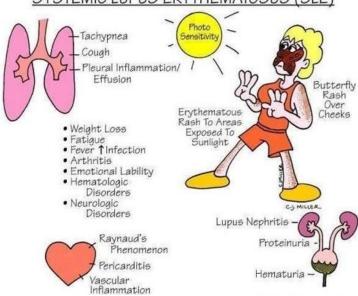
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE):

- It is a multisystem autoimmune disease in which there is immune complexmediated vasculitis (type-III hypersensitivity). Common in females after 10 years of age.
- **Diagnostic criteria**: 4 of these 11 criteria will provide a sensitivity and specificity of 96% "SOAP BRAIN MD":
 - ✓ \underline{S} : Serositis (pleuritis and inflammation of pericardium).
 - ✓ O: Oral ulcers.
 - ✓ A: Arthritis (non-erosive, migratory and transient).
 - ✓ P: Photosensitivity.
 - ✓ B: Blood cytopenias (hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia and leucopenia).
 - ✓ R: Renal disease.
 - ✓ A: ANA-positive.
 - ✓ I: Immunoserology abnormalities (anti-dsDNA antibodies).
 - \checkmark <u>N</u>: Neurologic symptoms (encephalitis, seizures and psychosis).
 - ✓ M: Malar rash (butterfly rash).
 - ✓ D: Discoid lupus.

• Investigations:

- ✓ ↑ESR and CRP.
- ✓ Hemolytic anemia, leucopenia and thrombocytopenia.
- ✓ ANA and RF: ↑ in SLE but not specific.
- ✓ Anti-dsDNA and anti-Sm are very specific.
- ✓ <u>Antiphospholipid antibodies</u>: associated with increased risk of thrombotic events → this is treated with low-molecular weight heparin or warfarin.
- ✓ ↓ C3 and C4: indicating immune complex-mediated complement activation.
- Management: glucocorticoids are the mainstay of therapy for children with SLE.
- **Prognosis**: mortality commonly due to infection (caused by immunosuppression), renal failure or CNS complications.

SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)





- It is an inflammatory condition which results in progressive proximal muscle weakness that is preceded by characteristic skin findings. It is common in females between the age of 5-14 years.
- Clinical features:
 - ✓ Skin findings:
 - ❖ Periorbital violaceous heliotrope rash.
 - ❖ *Gottron's papules*: skin over metacarpal and proximal interphalangeal joints will become erythematous and thickened.
 - ✓ <u>Muscle weakness</u>: with positive Gower's sign (which means that the patient is unable to stand from a sitting position unless climbing his thighs). Muscle weakness can be confirmed with abnormal EMG findings, abnormal muscle biopsy findings or abnormal muscle enzymes.







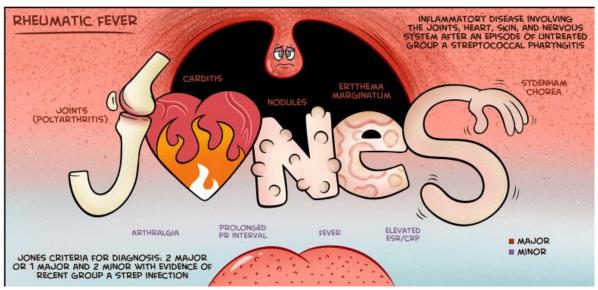
- Management:
 - ✓ Corticosteroids.
 - ✓ <u>Vitamin D and calcium</u>: to prevent osteopenia (resulting from steroid therapy) and reducing frequency of fractures.
- Rheumatic fever:
 - It is an autoimmune complication of pharyngitis caused by Group A β -Hemolytic Streptococcus GABHS (Streptococcus pyogens). Commonly affecting children between the age of 5-15 years.
 - **Diagnosis**: through Jones criteria (2 major or 1 major + 2 minor):

Major criteria	Minor criteria
Migratory asymmetric polyarthritis (70% of patients)	Fever
Carditis (50% of patients): commonly endocarditis which results in insufficiency of left-sided valves (aortic or mitral)	Leukocytosis



Sydenham's Chorea	Arthralgia
Erythema marginatum	↑ESR and CRP
Subcutaneous nodules (rare!)	Prolonged PR interval on ECG





- **Investigations**: ↑ASO titer (indicating recent GABHS infection).
- Management:
 - ✓ <u>Eradication of GABHS infection</u>: single dose IM injection of benzathine penicillin.
 - ✓ Control of inflammation: NSAIDs.
 - ✓ Corticosteroids used when there is severe cardiac involvement.

- Lyme disease:

• It is caused by an infection with the spirochete Borrelia burgdorferi that is transmitted by a tick bite from Ixodes species which has to be attached to skin for more than 36-48 hours for transmission to occur.

Clinical features:

Cinical features:			
Early disease	Late disease		
 Early localized disease (1-4 months): ✓ Erythema migrans which is annular and target-like. ✓ Constitutional symptoms: fever, fatigue, myalgias and arthralgias. Early disseminated disease (5-12 months): ✓ Multiple secondary erythema migrans (smaller than initial lesion). ✓ Neurologic manifestations: facial nerve palsy (3%) and aseptic meningitis (1%) 	The hallmark is arthritis		

- **Investigations**: serology measuring antibodies to B. burgdorferi by ELISA and conformation by Western blot.
- **Management**: amoxicillin or doxycyline (for children ≥ 9 years).



