CASE OF AUTOIMMUNE HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA IN A CHILD WITH NECROTIZING PNEUMONIA

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INTRODUCTION

Even though AIHA with Mycoplasma and Viral infections are common in children, AIHA associated with pneumococcal pneumonia is a rare presentation.

CASE HISTORY

A 2½ years old child presented with

- ❖ Cough for 2 weeks
- ❖ Fever for 2 weeks with fast breathing.

On evaluation, he was pale, tachypnic and in respiratory distress with bronchial breathing on right side.

INVESTIGATION

- ❖ Complete blood counts showed Anemia with leucocytosis (Hb-7.9g/dl on admission and 5.9g/dl on next day).
- ❖ CRP was 338mg/dl.
- ❖ Peripheral smear showed normocytic hypochromic erythrocytes with few macrocytes, target cells and polychromatic cells.
- ❖ Chest X-ray showed right upper and middle lobe consolidation.

- ❖ Coombs test was positive with anti IgG/C3d.
- ❖ Auto antibodies are present at 37 deg C as well as 4 deg C (both warm and cold antibodies).
- ❖ Blood culture was negative, but PCR was positive for Streptococcus pneumoniae.
- ❖ CT chest was done due to continuous fever spikes and persistently elevated inflammatory markers and it showed right necrotizing pneumonia with moderated empyema.

MANAGEMENT

- ❖ Child was admitted in PICU and started on HFNC initially and later shifted to BIPAP in view of worsening distress.
- ❖ Child was started on IV antibiotics, Meropenem and Vancomycin.
- ❖ He was treated with IVIG (1g/kg) and later was transfused with 1 unit of PRBC's.
- ❖ Right Thoracotomy and Decortication with Evacuation of empyema with Lung Debridement was done.

- ❖ IV antibiotics continued for 14 days and later changed to oral therapy.
- ❖ Repeat Chest X-ray showed significant improvement.

DISCUSSION

- ❖ AIHA, though common with Mycoplasma pneumonia can be seen with Streptococcus pneumonia.
- ❖ A short course of IVIG or Corticosteroids are beneficial for severe hemolytic anemia in acute phase.
- ❖ Treatment of pneumonia itself reduces the hemolysis in due course.

KEYWORDS

Mycoplasma, Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia
Necrotizing pneumonia