Conclusion: We have described the clinical characteristics, immunological profile and outcome of 30 severe HFMD children with IVIg administration, which is informative for disease management. Cross-neutralization data from this study is important for vaccine design and development in the future.

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Atypical presentation of epidemic typhus in South India: A case report

K. Vivek1,*, Q. Anwar2, S. Shampure2
1 Mallya Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka, India
2 Mallya Hospital, BANGALORE, India

Background: Epidemic typhus is due to R. prowazekii. In India the endemic spot is Kashmir. Infection is transmitted when the contaminated louse faces is rubbed through the minute abrasions caused by scratching. Occasionally, infection may also be transmitted by aerosols of dried louse faces through inhalation or through the conjunctiva. Incubation period is 5 - 15 days. They infect the vascular endothelium and reticuloendothelial cells with 40% case fatality. A characteristic rash sparing the face, palms and soles. Towards the second week, the patient becomes stuporous and delirious. Thrombocytopenia is observed in more than half of the patients.

Methods & Materials: A 17 years old male patient, residing in hostel, complained of high grade fever since 9 days and after 4 days of fever, rashes appeared first on trunk which spread over limbs but sparing face, palm and sole and consequently changed into purpura fulminans. On day 6th patient had syncope with seizure. On day 9th patient was admitted in ICU because of altered senso-rium with left facial paralysis without neck rigidity. Immediately empirical treatment was started with cephaperazone-sulbactum, doxycycline and acyclovir and de-escalated subsequently. Investigation showed Hb 13.6 gm/dl, WBC 14900 /mm3 (Neutrophil 79%) and platelet 26000/mm3. CSF and other blood examination done were normal. Weil-Felix test was positive (by tube agglutination, to proteus antigen OX19 (1:640); OXK (1:640); OX2 (negative)). CT and further MRI brain were normal.

Results: The case appears atypical because suspected encephali-tis resolved fast in one day without any sequel. Patient had high grade fever till day 17, which responded to 12 days of doxycycline. Initial presentation of case was like acute stroke and review of literature also sparsely reported this but investigations did not support this. Suspected neurorickettisoses disappeared rapidly, is also very atypical in pathogenesis of vasculitis. Prolonged high grade fever till day 17, was investigated for malaria and tuberculous meningitis. Weil-Felix Test report was high with equal titres 0X19 & 0XK which is also atypical.

Conclusion: For rare organisms, clinical presentation and investigation reports can be vague. Lack of facility to confirm rickettsioses is the biggest limitation. In current scenario Rickettisoses is diagnosed by relevant clinical findings and Weil-Felix test positivity.

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Real-Time PCR studies regarding the borrelia burgdorferi, francisella tularensis, tick borne encephalitis virus (TBEv) and crimean congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFv) occurrence in the Romanian ticks

A. Vladimirescu1,*, G. Dumitrescu2, L. Ionescu2, M. Neculescu2, V. Moraru2, D. Popescu2, S. Bicheru2, D. Danes3, D. Baraitarea2, V. Ciulacu-Purcarea1, G. Nicolescu1
1 “Cantacuzino” National Institute of Research, Bucharest, Romania
2 Military Medical Research Center, Bucharest, Romania
3 University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
4 University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest, Romania

Background: Our studies undertaken between 2006-2015 have shown that the most frequent species of ticks in Romania is Ixodes ricinus. It was found that I ricinus is the main vector in Romania for the Borrelia burgdorferi s.l and for the TBEV, but no data were available for Francisella tularensis and CCHFv infectious agents occurrence into Iricinus and Hyalomma sp.

Three Romanian counties were selected as ticks sampling sites (Sibiu, Tulcea and Giurgiu), with this occasion we collected ticks
from the vegetation and from the livestock and reptile fauna. Among the reptiles (Tulcea county), Testudo graeca ibera (TGI) is a well represented species. Samples of ectoparasites obtained from TGI and livestock collected during the years: 2006-2007 and 2014-2015 (April-June) showed that the majority of ticks are represented by Hyalomma aegyptium and H. marginatum.

Over 400 I. ricinus and Hyalomma sp. ticks were collected and analyzed by Real-Time PCR methods (including the new TicKitqPCR detection concept; project funded by the MEN-UEFISCDI PN II “Partnerships in priority areas” program, National Research Grant No. 295/2014”) that give us results on Borrelia burgdorferi, Francisella tularensis, TBEv and CCHFv (BFTC) presence in the vectors.

**Methods & Materials: Total RNA and DNA were extracted and analyzed by in house real-time PCR reagents (included in the new TicKitqPCR detection concept) and 2 commercial kits for the BFTC detection in the I. ricinus and Hyalomma sp. pools.**

**Results:** Specific DNAs from B. burgdorferi sl. were detected (FlaB gene target) in 20% of I. ricinus ticks and specific DNAs for F. tularensis were detected (IS Ftu2 genomic insertion-like element) in 2% of the same vector species.

Specific RNAs from TBEv were detected (3’UTR-genomic region) in <1% of Liricinus pools.

No specific CCHFv RNAs were detected (S -genomic region) among the Hyalomma sp. pools.

**Conclusion:** The results strengthen the concern that already exists in Romania, for the enhancement the surveillance and the control measures for the tick populations but also for the means of active information of the human population about the danger of the diseases transmitted by ticks in some risk areas.