## Lab Diagnosis of Immune Defects: Why Blood is thicker than Water

#### **Donald C. Vinh, MD**

Laboratory, Susceptibility to Infectious Diseases Assistant Professor, FRQS Clinician-Scientist McGill University Health Centre donald.vinh@mcgill.ca









RESEARCH INSTITUTE McGill University Health Centre Program in Infectious Diseases and Immunity in Global Health

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## **Objectives:**

(1) Overview of host defenses and relevant immunological diagnostic tests;

(2) Diagnostic strategies: Tailoring Immunology tests to Infectious disease syndromes;

(3) Genetic testing of the MAcrobe: Targeted vs. Agnostic approaches... and why should we even care

## **Immunology for the ID/MM: Overview of Host Defenses**

## How to think about Immunity



### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

#### MICROBIOLOGY

Anti-Microbia therapy



## How to think about Immunity

#### **CLINICAL DISEASE (PHENOTYPE)**

#### CLINICAL SUSPICION of Immune Defect

### Deficient vs Excessive

Innate vs Adaptive Inborn vs Acquired

### Immunity 101: Why aren't you sick?

#### **Immune System**

#### INNATE

- Pre-formed
- Pattern Recognition
- Immediate (seconds-hours)
- Effectors:
  - Complement
  - Neutrophils
  - Monocytes
  - NK cells
  - EpitheliumEndothelium ?

#### ADAPTIVE

- Antigen-induced
- Antigen-recognition
- Delayed (days-weeks)

Effectors:AntibodyB & T lymphocytes

#### Sense & Search Ignore / Destroy

## Immunodeficiency: Inborn vs Acquired

- Primary Immunodeficiency (PID)
- "Primary": disease-causing genotype
- PID : inborn error of immunity that results in fatal (or life-threatening) infection
- Expanded phenotype:
  - Atopy
  - Immune Dysregulation (Autoimmunity / Auto-inflammatory)
  - Cell proliferation: Lymphoproliferative, Cancer

## Immunodeficiency: Inborn vs Acquired

**Secondary Immunodeficiency (SID)** 

"Secondary": not inherent (genetic)

Aging	Iatrogenic		
	immunosuppression (drugs)		
Malnutrition	Infections (e.g. HIV, measles)		
Malignancy	Loss (e.g. Nephrotic; PLE);		
	AutoAbs		

DefectS; Multifactorial



# DIAGNOSTIC STRATEGIES:



### Infections, Infections, everywhere

#### Meningitis/ Encephalitis





















## Who's Got a Problem?



Primary Immunodeficiency (PI) causes children and adults to have infections that a are unusually hard to cure. 1:500 persons are affected by one of the known Prim If you or someone you know is affected by two or more of the following Warnir physician about the possible presence of an underlying Primary Immunod







wo or more pneumonias within one year.











Presented as a public service by:



These warning signs were developed by the Jeffrey Modell Foundation Consultation with Primary Immunodeficiency experts is strongly sugges For information or referrals, contact the Jeffrey Modell Foundation: infe







PLUS DE 2 MOIS de traitement aux antibiotiques par an avec peu d'effets



ABCES profonds et récurrents sur la peau ou autres organes

> ANTÉCÉDENTS FAMILIAUX d'un déficit



signes cliniques d'ALERTE d'un déficit immunitaire primaire





Une infection persistante Day CHAMPIGNONS dans la bouche ou sur la peau









Warning sings

Youden index

>8 ear infections within 1 year

>2 pneumonias within 1 year

Failure to grow normally

Failure to thrive



Need for intravenous antibiotics



Plus de 4 OTITES par an

PNEUMONIES par an

L'un ou l'autre de ces signes cliniques peuvent laisser penser à un déficit immunitaire sans toutefois qu'il en soit systématiquement ainsi. Veuillez consulter votre médecin pour un diagnostic.

🛞 www.cipo-apiq.ca 🛞

1 855 561-4563 info@cipo-apig.ca 🔀

Warning sings

Max. sensitivity

Failure to grow normally

Recurrent deep skin or organ abscesses

Failure to thrive

## Who's Got a Problem?



#### Table 1

The 6 ESID warning signs for adult primary immunodeficiency diseases

- Four or more infections requiring antibiotics within 1 year (otitis, bronchitis, sinusitis, pneumonia)
- 2. Recurring infections or infection requiring prolonged antibiotic therapy
- Two or more severe bacterial infections (osteomyelitis, meningitis, septicemia, cellulitis)
- 4. Two or more radiologically proven pneumonia within 3 years
- 5. Infection with unusual localization or unusual pathogen
- 6. PID in the family

Abbreviations: ESID, European Society of Immunodeficiency; PID, primary immunodeficiency disease.

## Who's Got a Problem?

- Abnormal <u>frequency</u> of infection
  - Recurrent Respiratory Tract Infections (RRTIs)
  - Recurrent/recalcitrant warts
- Abnormal presentation of infections
   Fungal CNS infection

#### Specific unusual infections

- Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia
- Burkholderia cepacia complex lymphadenitis
- Infection with a bug that ID/MM cannot pronounce

### The "Immunocompromised" Host

Immunosuppressive Diseases or Conditions	<ul> <li>Hematologic malignancies (leukemias, lymphomas)</li> <li>Transplantation (bone marrow, solid organ)</li> <li>Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome</li> <li>Neutropenia associated with diseases or drugs</li> <li>Collagen vascular diseases (when treated with immunosuppressive drugs)</li> <li>ICU patients who have had gastrointestinal surgery or perforation, central venous catheter, total parenteral nutrition, broadspectrum antibiotics, burns, multisystem organ failure, or are neonates</li> <li>Diabetes mellitus with ketoacidosis</li> <li>Iron chelation therapy with deferoxamine</li> </ul>
lmmunosuppresive Therapy	<ul> <li>Corticosteroids</li> <li>Cancer chemotherapeutic agents</li> <li>Cyclosporine, tacrolimus</li> </ul>
	Table 1

**USUALLY: Discernable by History, Physical Exam, some basic lab tests** 

### The "Not-Obviously Immunocompromised" Host



Slow TAT





Third Edition

#### PRIMARY Immunodeficiency Diseases

A Molecular and Genetic Approach



Hans D. Ochs / C. I. Edvard Smith / Jennifer M. Puck

OXFORD

Primary immunodeficiency diseases: an update on the classification from the International Union of Immunological Societies Expert Committee for Primary Immunodeficiency

### 2015: >260 PID (increase of 30 since 2011)

#### Recurrent Respiratory Tract Infections (RRTIs)

- Recurrent:
- Respiratory:
  - Upper
  - Lower
- Bacterial
- Radiologically documented/clear ance
- Invasive disease





## Who let the Pneumococcus out?

C′ `

## **Complement:**



#### **Microbe surface**



C3b; Factor D; Factor B; Properdin

Factor H; Factor I

Testing of C': (1) C3 ; C4 (2) Classical C' + Alternative C' (3) Repeat if ab(n) [R/O in vitro consumption] (+/-) Individual C' components (+/-) ? Cause

## Who let the Pneumococcus out?

C'

## HypoGammaGlobulinemia (HGG)

	IgG	IgA	IgM	IgE	
Property	Major serum Ig (75%) Major extra-vascular Ig Crosses placenta	Mucosal secretions (breast milk, saliva, tears, mucus)	First type of Ab produced after T cells find an antigen	Usually low levels	
t½	21 d	6 d	5 – 10 d	2 d	
structure	Monomer	Dimer (secretions)	Pentamer	Monomer	
Function	Fixes complement Opsonization	Mucosal defences	Fixes complement Agglutination	Bound to mast cells / basophils	
	IgG subclasses: • IgG1 • IgG2 • IgG3 • IgG4	QUALITY: (1) SPECIFIC Abs• Vaccines: Tetanus, Hib• Natural infections: VZV(2) DIVERSITY: SPEP, UPEP, FLCRETENTION/LOSS: ALBUMIN			

### **B** cell Development



## Who let the Pneumococcus out?

**C**′

## **NEUTROPHILS:**



## Who let the Pneumococcus out?

< C'



## Immunologic w/u for RRTIs:

#### 1) Complement:

- C3; C4
- CLASSICAL & ALTERNATIVE C' Pathways
- Individual C' components

#### 2) Immunoglobulins:

- **IgG / A / M / E**
- IgG subclasses
- Albumin

**3) Enumeration of B & T cells** 

#### And...

- 4) Spleen (RRTI + invasive disease)
- 5) Neutrophils (RRTI + other infections)
- Quantitative: Abs Neutrophil count
- Functional: DHR; CD11b/CD18



- PULMONARY / ENT causes:
- Anatomic
- Allergic
- Alpha1-anti-trypsin
- Primary ciliary dyskinesia (nasal NO)
- Cystic Fibrosis
- ENaC (Epithelial Na<sup>+</sup> channel disorders):
  - ab(n) Na/Cl in serum;
  - ab(n) sweat Cl<sup>-</sup>

#### **Relevance of Immunologic** 1) Complement: **VACCINATION** against • C3; C4 "ENCAPSULATED" organisms CLASSICAL & ALTERNATIVE C' **Pathways** • Individual C' components **2) Immunoglobulins: ImmunoGlobulin replacement** • IgG / A / M / E **IVIG or SCIG** • IgG subclasses Target IgG: 8-10 g/L • Albumin **Enumeration of B & T cells** 3) And... **VACCINATION** against **Spleen 4**) "ENCAPSULATED" organisms 5) **Neutrophils** & Early/Self-initiated Abx • ANC • Functional: DHR; CD11b/CD18 **G-CSF**



# BAL showed *Pneumocystis*

#### Snip excision revealed HPV-6

#### Culture yielded *Candida albicans*



Pott's (TB spine)

Kaposi's sarcoma



### <u>T cells:</u>



Cunningham-Rundles, Nat Imm 2005

### Adaptive Immunity: T cells



### T cell Defects:





## **Evaluation of T cells:**

- <u>T / B / NK enumeration:</u>
- **T**: CD3<sup>+</sup> (total) CD4<sup>+</sup> ; CD8<sup>+</sup>
- RA<sup>+</sup> (naive)/RO<sup>+</sup> (memory)
- **B**: CD19 (or CD20)
- NK: CD3<sup>-</sup>,16/56<sup>+</sup>
- <u>Monocytes</u>:
  - Manual > Automated
  - CD14+
- <u>Ig G / A / M / E</u>

- **TREC**: T cell maturation through thymus
- **TcR repertoire** (PCR; spectratyping): clonality
- **TB-Quantiferon** (or DTH)

## **Evaluation of T cells: More Advanced Testing**

- Th17 cells: Candidiasis
- <u>Tfh cells</u>: Hypogammaglobulinemia
- <u>**Treg cells**</u>: Autoimmunity



## BUT... WHAT IF IT'S ALL "NORMAL" ??

# FUNCTIONAL TESTING



# Functional Testing... an example

#### **IL-12 / IFN-γ axis:** Mycobacteria; TDF; *Salmonella*



# GENETIC TESTING of the Macrobe (Host)

WHO CARES??





YOU DO

### Genetic Testing: WHY you should care

#### • <u>CLINICAL:</u>

- MOLECULAR confirmation of diagnosis
- Genetic counseling: who else in family is at risk?
- Prognosis: what complications to monitor

### • **DIAGNOSTIC**:

- Unambiguous
- "Forme fruste"
  - variable penetrance; variable expressivity
- Testing
  - Functional = viable cells [fragile]; Genes = stable
- THERAPEUTIC:

## Genetic Testing: WHY you should care



HEALTH

#### **FUNCTIONAL Immunotherapy:**

- IVIG or SCIG
  - **G-CSF**
  - Vaccination

MOLECULAR Immunotherapy:

Gene targeting

(Deficient) Cellular phenotype



IOTROPIC

GENES

M

### **Genetic Testing: the CARD9 example**



qPCR Cytokine CSF2 GM-CSF GM-CSF 



CSF2 expression (GUSB)



Spontaneous CNS candidiasis (C. albicans)

#### **Recessive mutations in CARD9**



### **Genetic Testing: How?**

- Commercial Labs
  - Provincial regulations
- Research Labs
- Targeted: 1 gene
- Panel: Multiple genes
- Whole gene vs. gene regions

- Agnostic
  - "Don't know what I'm looking for"
  - Discovery of new genes
- Next-generation sequencing
  - Whole-exome
  - Whole-genome
  - Transcriptome (RNA-seq)

COSTS = Pre-Analytical + Analytical + Post-Analytical

## **Key Points:**

- Infections (Recurrent / Severe / Unusual)
   → THINK OF IMMUNODEFICIENCY
   (NOT Abx deficiency)
- Immunodeficiency: Primary (Genetic) or Secondary
- Testing:
  - Clinical + Microbiological
  - Immunological: <u>Quantitative</u> vs. <u>Qualitative</u> (Functional)
    - Myeloid: Neutrophils ; Monocytes/Macrophages
    - Lymphoid: T / B / NK
    - Humoral: Complement; Immunoglobulins
  - Genetic
- The type of immunodeficiency  $\rightarrow$  Management
- And....

#### KEEP AN OPEN MIND

#### IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN AN AWKWARD PREDICAMENT...







WE ARE JUST A PHONE CALL / EMAIL AWAY & WOULD LOVE TO COLLABORATE WITH YOU

**THANK YOU!**