



# ID Emergencies

BUMC-P

Internal Medicine

Edwin Yu

# Learning Objectives

- Bacterial meningitis
  - IDSA guidelines: Clin Infect Dis 2004; 39:1267-84
- HSV encephalitis
  - IDSA guidelines: Clin Infect Dis 2008; 47:303-27
- Necrotizing skin and soft tissue infections
  - IDSA guidelines: Clin Infect Dis 2014; 59:10-52
- Clinical presentation
- Diagnosis
- Management

# Bacterial Meningitis – Q1

In patients with acute bacterial meningitis, what percentage of patients will present with the classic triad of symptoms – fever, neck stiffness and altered mental status?

*A. 15%*

*B. 40%*

*C. 80%*

*D. 95+%*

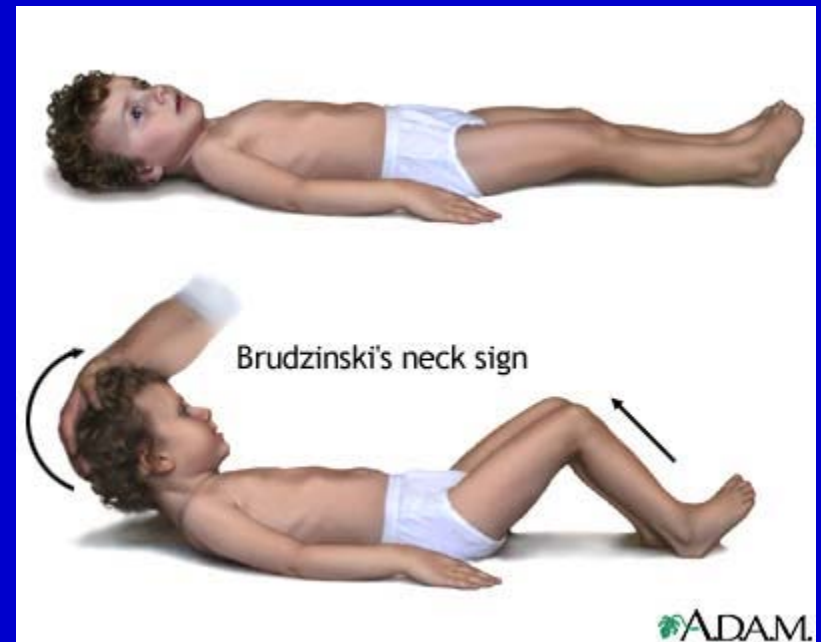
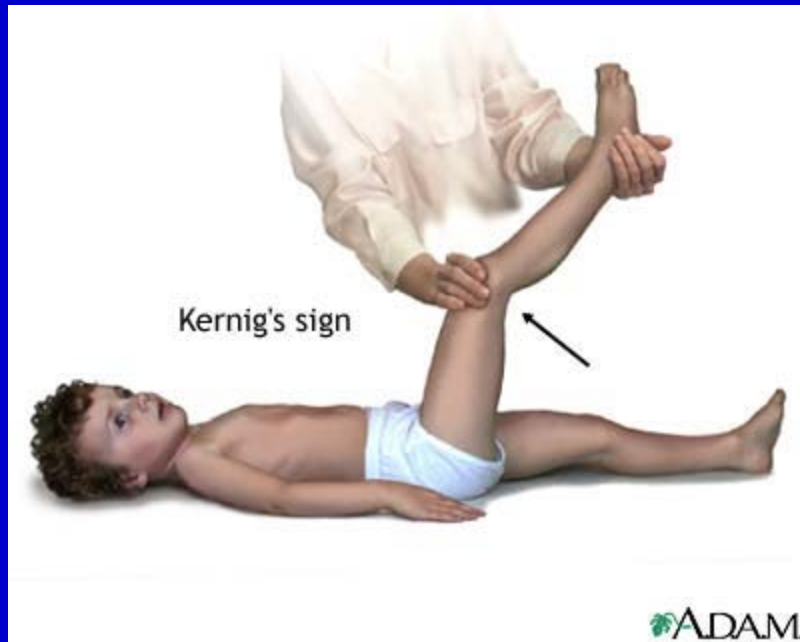
# Bacterial Meningitis

## Clinical Manifestations

Classic triad: fever, nuchal rigidity and altered mental status 40%  
95% will have 2 of 4: HA, fever, stiff neck, and altered mental status [1]

Sensitivity of nuchal rigidity for identifying meningitis = 30%

Sensitivity of Kernig's or Brudzinski's sign = 5% each [2]



[1] NEJM 2004; 351:1849

[2] CID 2002; 35:46

# Bacterial Meningitis – Q2

In patients presenting with suspected acute bacterial meningitis, what is the first diagnostic study that should be performed immediately?

- A. Lumbar puncture*
- B. Head CT*
- C. Blood cultures*
- D. Procalcitonin*

# Bacterial Meningitis

## Diagnostic Studies

- **Blood cultures**
  - Obtain 2 sets STAT
  - Positive in 50-90%
- **Lumbar puncture**
  - Cell count & diff, glucose, protein, GS, culture
  - Do not order CSF (*S.pneumo*, *N.meningitidis*) antigen tests
  - Bacterial vs Viral: when in doubt – save CSF
- **Head CT**
  - Immunocompromise, hx CNS disease, new seizure, papilledema, ALOC, focal neuro deficit [3]

# Bacterial Meningitis – Q3

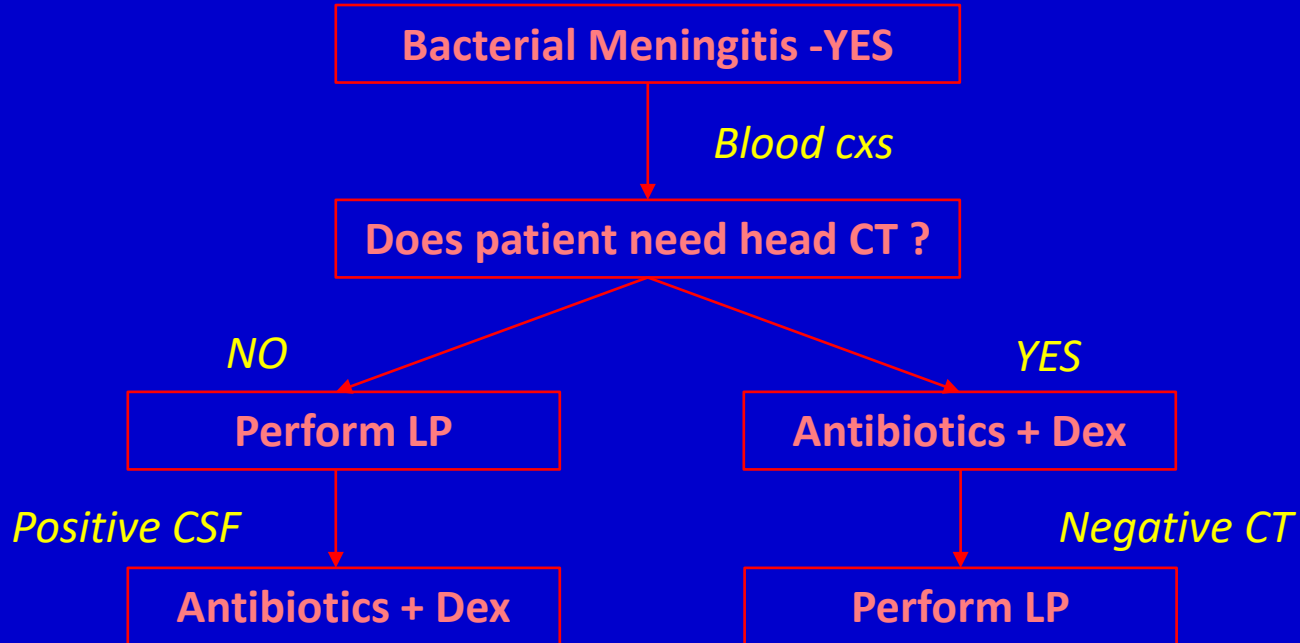
50M homeless, hx of EtOH abuse, presents to ED with fevers and altered mental status. Cannot obtain further hx. Exam – T 39 C, stiff neck, obtunded, withdraws to noxious stimuli. Blood cxs obtained.

What is the next best step in management?

- A. Start antibiotics*
- B. Head CT*
- C. Lumbar puncture*
- D. Check EtOH level*

# Bacterial Meningitis

## Management Algorithm





# Bacterial Meningitis

## Clinical Microbiology

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
  - GPC in pairs
  - Most common cause
- *Neisseria meningitidis*
  - GNC in pairs
  - Epidemics, students. Respiratory droplet isolation.
- *Haemophilus influenzae*
  - GNR
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
  - GPR
  - Neonates, age > 50, immunocompromised host

# Clinical Case #1 – Q4

56M presents to ED with 1 day of fevers, generalized myalgias and malaise. PE: T 36.8°C, P67, BP 156/90. Oriented only to name, neck supple, midline abdominal scar. Labs: WBC 17.8 (65%N 23%B), + Howell-Jolly bodies. CSF: 75W 80%N, G 1, P 485, GS GPCs in pairs.

Which of the following is the best treatment for this patient?

- A. *Vanco + Ceftriaxone*
- B. *Vanco + Ceftriaxone + Dexamethasone*
- C. *Vanco + Ceftriaxone + Ampicillin*
- D. *Vanco + Ceftriaxone + Amp + Dexamethasone*

# Bacterial Meningitis

## Diagnosis & Management

- **Antibiotics (within 1-2 hours)**

Vancomycin

- 20mg/kg load, 15mg/kg q12, trough 15-20

Ceftriaxone: 2gm q12

\*Ampicillin: 2gm q4 (if risk for Listeria)

- **Dexamethasone**

Suspected or proven pneumococcal meningitis

CSF: cloudy/pus, GS - GPC, CSF WBC > 1000 [4]

Dexamethasone 0.15mg/kg PO q6h x2-4 days

Do not give AFTER antibiotics administered

CSF in Bacterial meningitis

CSF WBC > 1000

CSF WBC < 100 (~10%)

Neutrophil % > 80%

Glucose < 40 mg/dL

CSF-serum G ratio 0.4

Protein > 200 mg/dL

CSF lactate > 35mg/dL

High probability if any:

WBC > 2000 or ANC > 1180

Protein > 220

Glucose < 34

# Bacterial Meningitis

## Summary

- **Clinical:** (2 of 4) fever, HA, neck stiffness, AMS
- **Microbiology:**
  - *S.pneumo*, *N.meningitidis*, *H.flu*
  - *Listeria* (Age > 50, immunocompromised host)
- **Diagnostics:**
  - Blood cultures first
  - Needs Head CT → treat first
  - LP (WBC > 1000, 80%N, G <40 or ratio 0.4, P > 200)
- **Treatment:**
  - Dexamethasone first (classic presentation or CSF criteria)
  - Vanco + Ceftriaxone (+ Ampicillin if *Listeria*).

# Clinical Case #2 – Q5

47F brought in by family for 3 day history of fevers and chills, then developed aphasia. No significant PMH. PE: T 39.2°C, P112, BP 102/68. Confused, garbled speech. No neck stiffness, moving all extremities. No rash. Suffers a generalized seizure in the ED. LP: 92 WBC (95%L), 156 R, 77 G, 118 P, + xanthochromia. MR brain: Increased T2 and FLAIR signal intensity bilateral mesial temporal lobes.

Which of the following is the best treatment for this patient?

- A. *Vanco + Ceftriaxone + Dexamethasone*
- B. *IV acyclovir*
- C. *IV ganciclovir*
- D. *IV amphotericin*
- E. *INH + RIF + PZA + EMB*

# HSV Encephalitis

## Summary

- **Clinical**

Fever (90%). Acute onset (< 1 week)

AMS, temporal lobe symptoms, seizure

- **Microbiology**

HSV1 >> HSV2

Reactivation >> 1<sup>0</sup> infection

- **Diagnostics**

CSF HSV PCR 95+% sensitive

PCR can be negative if early

MR > CT sensitivity

90% abnormal, 60% unilateral

- **CSF in HSV encephalitis**

CSF WBC 5-500

Lymphocyte predominant

Glucose normal

CSF-serum G ratio > 0.5

Protein normal to elevated

- **Treatment**

IV acyclovir 10mg/kg q8h

Start empiric therapy immediately

Best outcome with trmt within 24 hrs

Mortality 70% → 15% (with trmt)

# Clinical Case #3 – Q6

54F presents with 4 day history of HA. Started as left temporal throbbing, progressed to involve her entire head and radiating down spine. Denies fevers. Mosquito bite 1 week ago. Hx of meningitis 2 years ago. Born in Mexico. PE: AF P72 BP 133/57, A&Ox3, neck supple, PERRL, neuro exam normal, no rash. LP: 702 WBC (96%L), G45, P77.

What is the most likely etiology for this patient's meningitis?

- A. HSV
- B. West Nile Virus
- C. Enterovirus
- D. Tuberculosis

# HSV Meningitis

## Summary

- **Clinical**
  - Primary genital HSV
  - Recurrent – lasts 2-7d, recurrence weeks-years
- **Diagnosis**
  - CSF: 10-1000 WBCs (N→L), nml G, slight elev P
  - HSV PCR, HSV-2 >> HSV-1
- **Management**
  - Immunocompromised - IV/PO acyclovir
  - Immunocompetent - treatment controversial
  - Primary genital HSV treatment ↓ risk of meningitis
  - Prophylaxis for recurrent meningitis not recommended



# Clinical Case #4 – Q7

33M with hx of MVA and bilateral tibial fractures s/p ORIF 4 months ago – recovered, walking. Developed progressive swelling, erythema and pain in the right lower tibial region 3d PTA. Denies antecedent trauma. Pain became so severe he could not walk. PE: T38.8°C P134 BP131/60. Severe distress due to pain. RLE with extensive erythema, black necrotic patch on anterior shin, small area draining pus. Labs: WBC 29 (92% N).  
**What is the next best step in management?**

- A. Consult Surgery
- B. Start antibiotics
- C. Obtain CT of the RLE
- D. Obtain Venous Duplex of RLE

# Necrotizing STI

## Clinical Manifestations

- **Systemic toxicity**
  - SIRS typically with high fever
  - Rapid progression (hours to days)
  - Organ dysfunction: MS changes, ARF
- **Cutaneous findings**
  - Exquisite pain, pain beyond area of erythema
  - Severe induration, ecchymoses, anesthesia, bullae (hemorrhagic/turbid), gangrene, crepitus

# NSTI – Q8

50M homeless man presents to the ED with fever and RLE pain. He is unable to provide any history due to altered mental status. On examination – febrile to 39 C, RLE with erythema and hemorrhagic bullae, tender to palpation. Labs: WBC 30, Na 127. Surgery coming to evaluate the patient.

Which of the following is the best antibiotic regimen for this patient?

- A. *Vancomycin*
- B. *Vancomycin + Cefazolin*
- C. *Vancomycin + Zosyn*
- D. *Vancomycin + Zosyn + Clindamycin*

# Necrotizing STI Microbiology

- **Monomicrobial (Type 2)**
  - Group A Strep
  - Staph aureus
  - Vibrio
- **Polymicrobial (Type 1)**
  - Bowel / perianal
  - Genital

# Necrotizing STI

## Diagnosis and Management

- **Diagnosis**

- Surgical diagnosis
- Laboratory: blood cultures
  - Laboratory risk indicator for necrotizing STI [1]
  - WBC, Hb, Na, Cr, Glucose, CRP – sensitive but not specific
- Imaging (*optional*): CT to evaluate for gas/abscess

- **Management**

- Surgical debridement
- Empiric:
  - Vanco → MRSA
  - Zosyn → GNRs & anaerobes

# Necrotizing STI Summary

- **Clinical**
  - SIRS parameters
  - Pain / toxicity out of proportion to exam findings
- **Microbiology**
  - Monomicrobial: GAS, Staph aureus
  - Polymicrobial: GNRs & anaerobes
- **Diagnostics**
  - Clinical suspicion → consult Surgery
- **Treatment**
  - Surgical debridement
  - Empiric: Vanco + Zosyn, then de-escalate to specific therapy