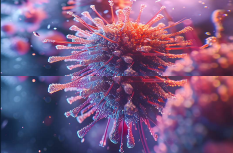



11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense  
Speaker: Steven Holland, MD



**Host Defense:  
Where the Rubber of Immunology  
Hits the Road of Life**

Steven M. Holland, MD  
Laboratory of Clinical Immunology and Microbiology  
NIAID, NIH  
smh@nih.gov

7/6/2025

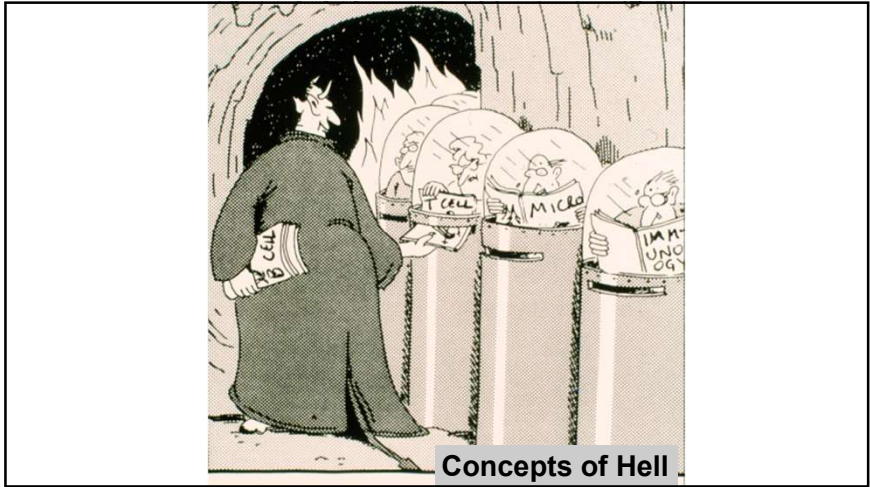
1



**Disclosures of Financial Relationships with  
Relevant Commercial Interests**

- None

2



3

**Host Immune Defense**

Humoral

- Complement
- Mannose binding lectin
- Antibody

Cellular

- Neutrophils
- Monocytes
- Eosinophils
- Lymphocytes (NK, T, B)
- Other (erythrocytes, platelets)

4

# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

## Basic Principles

Patients with impaired inflammation:

- May be unable to tell you they are sick (feel fine)
- Are often sicker than they look
- Often have more extensive disease than is apparent
- May require longer treatment than normals
- May have unusual infections

In vitro testing is tricky and variable, genetics is not

5

## Who's Got a Problem?

Abnormal frequency of infections

- Recurrent *Neisseria* bacteremia
- Recurrent pneumonia

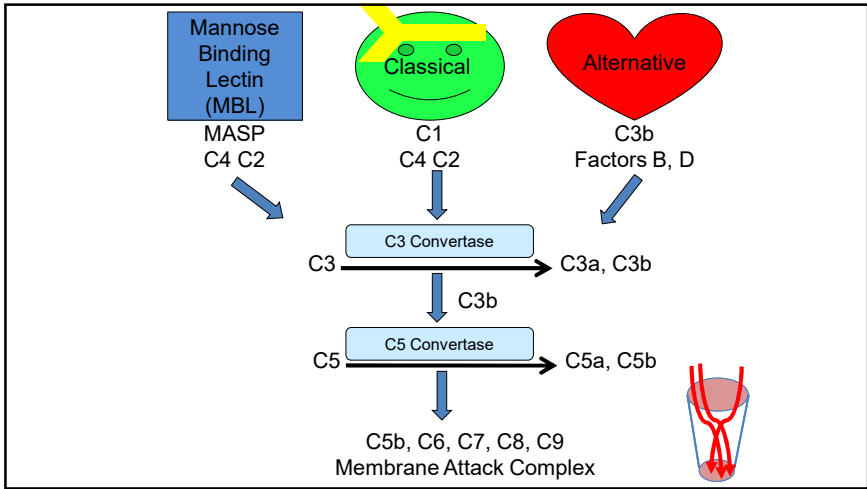
Abnormal presentation of infections

- Necrotic cutaneous ulcers (not anthrax)
- *Aspergillus* pneumonia

Specific unusual infections

- *Pneumocystis jiroveci*
- *Burkholderia cepacia* complex
- *Nontuberculous mycobacteria*.

6



7

## Complement Deficiencies

Classical Pathway (C1-C9) (AR)

- Antibody *dependent* bacterial lysis
- Deficiency leads to recurrent bacteremia and meningitis

Alternative Pathway (Factors I, H, Properdin, C3)  
(Properdin X-linked, others AR)

- Antibody *independent* bacterial lysis
- More severe than classical defects

Mannose Binding Lectin (MBL) Pathway

- Very modest IF ANY defect, mild effect in infancy

8

# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

## Complement Defects

### C5-C9 Defects

- Recurrent *Neisseria* bacteremia and meningitis
- Average age of onset 17 y, milder CNS sequelae
- High rates of relapse and reinfection

### C1-C4 Defects

- Autoimmune disease (SLE, DLE) more common

**Dx** - CH50 (Classical), AH50 (Alternative)

**Rx** - treat infections, prophylaxis if needed, hypervaccination?

J Clin Immunol 2020 May;40(4):576-591

9

## Antibody Deficiencies

### IgA Deficiency (AR)

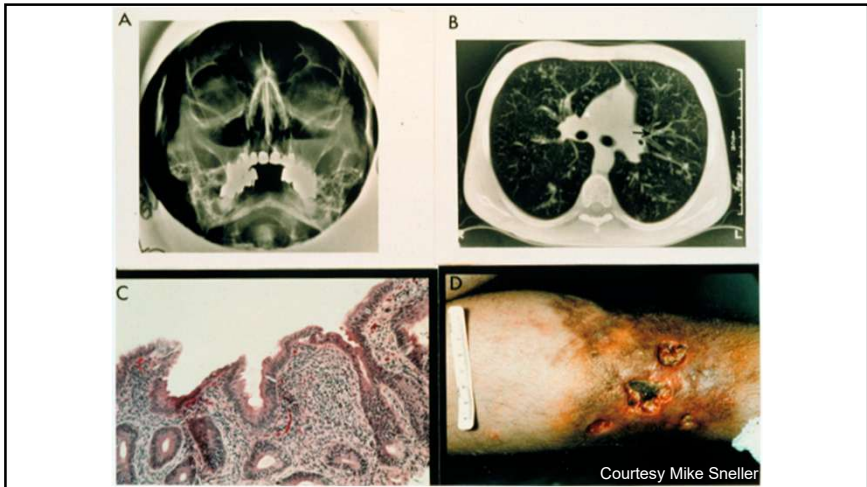
- Common (1/700 adults)
- Probably not a pathologic condition *per se*
- Frequently associated with other deficits, such as common variable immunodeficiency (CVID), Ig subclass deficiencies, allergies, etc.

**Dx** - Low IgA

**Rx** - None

J Transl Autoimmun 2019 Nov 23;2:100025

10



11


## Common Variable Immunodeficiency (CVID)

Recurrent sino-pulmonary bacterial infections

Chronic enteric *Giardia*, *Campy*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*

Severe enteroviral meningitis/encephalitis/myositis

Nodular regenerative hyperplasia

**Dx** -  IgG (total and subclasses 1,3 or 2,4),

IgA, IgM, isohemagglutinins, DTH,

Impaired response to new or recall immunization

 Autoimmunity and cancer

**Rx** - Treat infections, Ig replacement

Cunningham-Rundles C. Immunol Rev. 2019 Jan;287(1):145-161.

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Question #1

PREVIEW QUESTION

2025  
INFECTIOUS  
DISEASE  
BOARD REVIEW

47-year-old woman

- Recurrent episodes of bronchitis, recently more exacerbations; tired
- One episode of documented bacterial pneumonia and sinusitis
- Immunoglobulin levels:
  - IgG 500 (normal 523-1482)
  - IgA <10 (normal 51-375)
  - IgM 165 (normal 37-200)

13

Question #1

PREVIEW QUESTION

2025  
INFECTIOUS  
DISEASE  
BOARD REVIEW

What is the next step?

- A. IgG subclasses and titers against tetanus and pneumococcus. If low, consider IVIG.
- B. Repeat IgG levels. If low, consider IVIG.
- C. Skin tests for DTH. If anergic, consider IVIG.
- D. Titers against tetanus and pneumococcus, immunize, and repeat. If low, consider IVIG.
- E. Check MBL levels. If low, consider IVIG.

14

Question #1

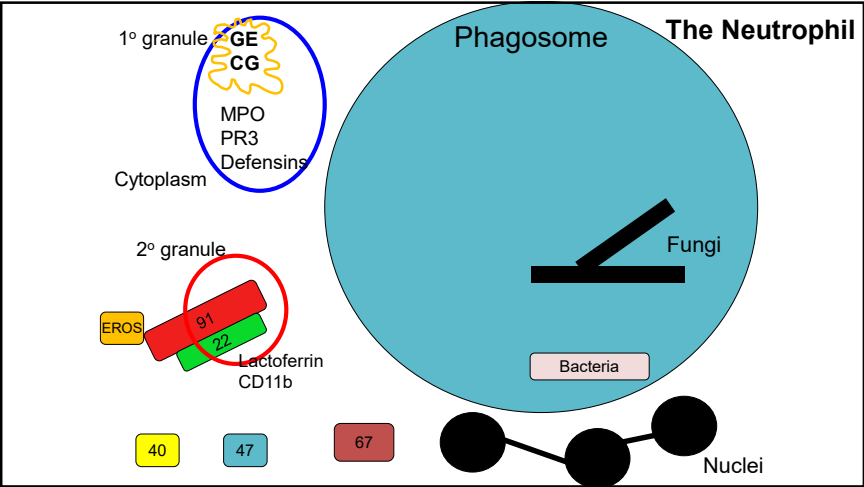
PREVIEW QUESTION

2025  
INFECTIOUS  
DISEASE  
BOARD REVIEW

What is the next step?

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- C. Skin tests for DTH. If anergic, consider IVIG.
- D. Titers against tetanus and pneumococcus, immunize, and repeat. If low, consider IVIG.**
- E. Check MBL levels. If low, consider IVIG.

15



16

Neutrophils: They’re a Big Deal!

- Average count 5000/mcl
  - (5,000,000/ml)
  - (5,000,000,000/L)
- Make around 10<sup>11</sup>/day
- Most are in bone marrow
- Can go up 10-fold in emergency
- Circulating half life 7 hours
- About 50% marginated

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Cyclic and Severe Chronic Neutropenias

- Cyclic and SCN: *ELANE* mutations (AD)  
Kostmann SCN: *HAX1* mutations (AR)
- Digital, oral, perineal infections, usually self-healing with recovery of counts, bacteremia uncommon
  - Relatively low baseline PMN count with profound neutropenia, about every 3-4 weeks
- Dx** - Molecular; periodicity, family history, genetics  
**Rx** - **G-CSF**, BMT

Hematol Oncol Clin North Am. 2019;33:533-551

18

Other Causes of Neutropenia

<u>X-linked</u>	<u>Recessive</u>	<b>Drugs</b>
WAS	G6PC3	<b>Splenomegaly/ sequestration</b>
GATA1	HAX1	
TAZ	JAGN	
<u>Dominant</u>	USB1	Autoimmunity
GF11	CSF3R	
ELA2	VPS45	
GATA2	GSD1B	
DNM2	SBDS	
SRP54		
CXCR4		

19

Case Study

- 52-year-old man
- Referred from his Family Practitioner
  - Recurrent digital and oral ulcers occurring every month or so for the last 4 months
  - One CBC showed an ANC of 100, but on repeat several days later was normal
  - Previous health good
  - Took “some antibiotic for a cold a few months ago”
  - Spleen tip felt

20



# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

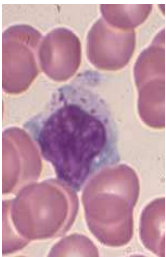
Speaker: Steven Holland, MD



21

## Acquired Neutropenia in Adults

- Drugs, lupus, etc.
  - Acquired cyclic neutropenia (Large Granular Lymphocytosis, LGL)  
Splenomegaly, often associated with Rheumatoid arthritis (Felty Syndrome)
- Dx** - Clonal CD3+/8+/57+ lymphs (LGL)  
(Gain of Function mutations in *STAT3*)
- Rx** - Treatment of the abnormal clone can be curative (cyclosporine, MTX, steroids, alemtuzumab)  
G-CSF may lift both nadir and baseline



Hematol Malig Rep. 2020 Apr;15(2):103-112.

22

## Myeloperoxidase (MPO) deficiency (AR)

- Most common neutrophil disorder (1/2000)
- Not a pathologic condition *per se*
  - Failure of  $H_2O_2$  -----MPO-----> HOCl
  - Compensated by increased  $H_2O_2$  production
  - Appears to need another condition to potentiate, such as diabetes mellitus
- Dx** - Absence of peroxidase positive granules due to mutations in *MPO* gene
- Rx** - Treat invasive infections (*Candida*), no specific therapy

J Leukoc Biol. 2013 Feb;93(2):185-98

23

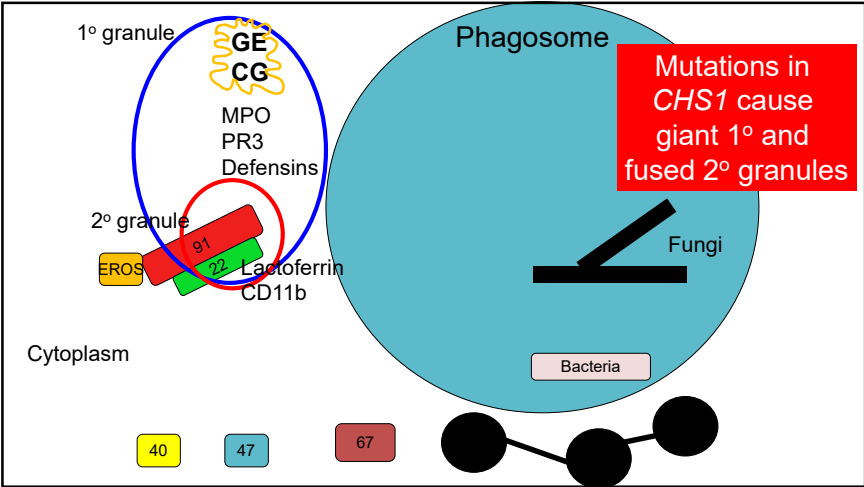


Chediak-Higashi Syndrome

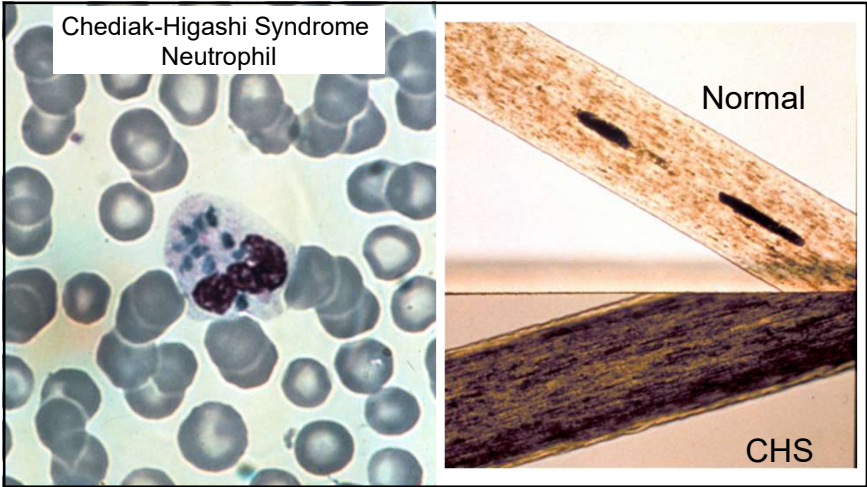
24

# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD



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## Chediak-Higashi Syndrome (AR)

Recurrent cutaneous, sino-pulmonary infections

- GNR, staph, strep, no fungi
- Mild neutropenia (intramedullary destruction)

Partial oculocutaneous albinism,

Mental retardation, neuropathy (late)

Lymphoma or HLH-like “accelerated phase” (late)

**Dx** - Giant blue PMN granules or chaotic hair granules due to mutations in *CHS1*, encodes LYST

**Rx** - Prophylaxis, treatment of infections, BMT

Drug Discov Today Dis Models. 2020;31:31-36

27

Silvery Sheen



Peripheral Neuropathy



28

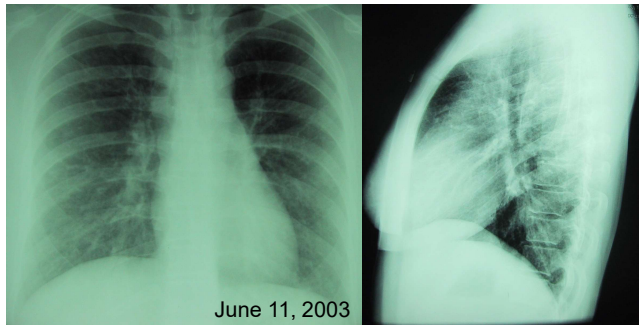
# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

## Case Study

**23-year-old woman; athletic coach**

Previously healthy; short of breath 4 hours after 3-mile run



29

## ER Presentation

- Recent weekend with friends in NYC
- Anxious, chest pressure, febrile
- Acute mononucleosis?

### PMH

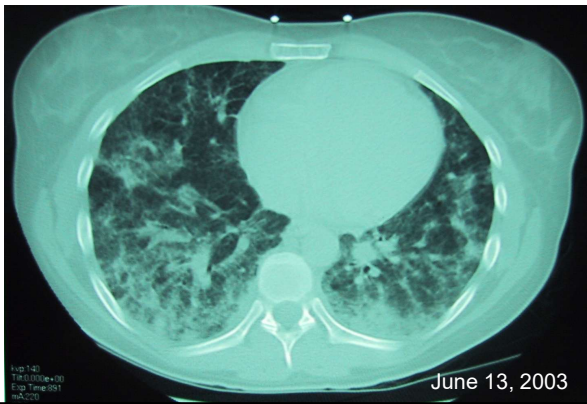
- Respiratory infections in infancy
- Cat scratch disease 8-year-old: resolved with antibiotics

### Family History

- 1 brother with two episodes Cat scratch cervical nodes
- 2 sibs well

30

## 2 Days Later, Hypoxia And Fever



31

## Hospital Course

- Progressive dyspnea, fever, leukocytosis
- Refractory to antibiotics and steroids
- Bronchoscopy uninformative
- Visually Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS) necrotizing granulomata and hyphae

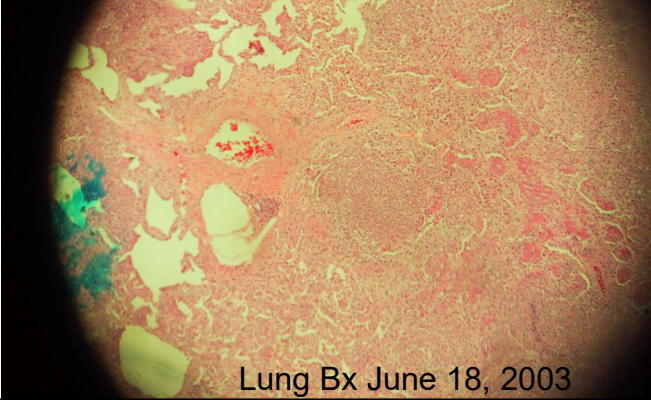
32



# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

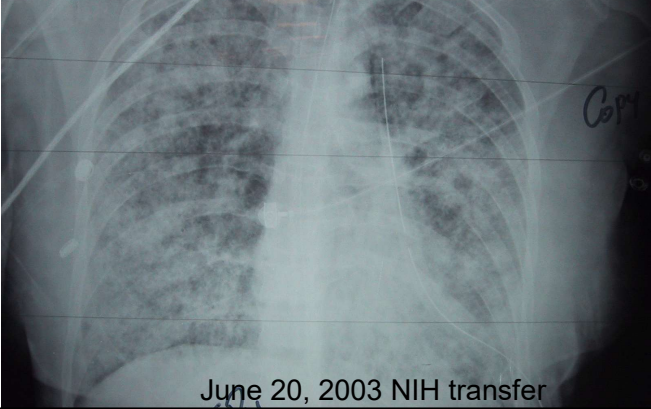
Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

8 days after presentation:  
Intubation and lung biopsy



Lung Bx June 18, 2003

10 days after presentation:  
Biopsy growing *A. fumigatus*



June 20, 2003 NIH transfer

## Question #2

Which of the following is a cause of invasive aspergillosis in an otherwise normal host?

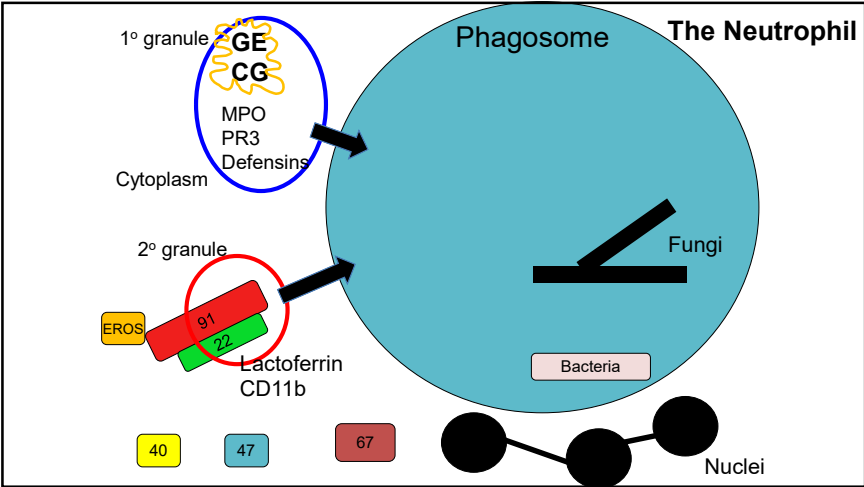
- A. Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
- B. Cystic fibrosis
- C. Lymphocyte dysfunction (SCID)
- D. Phagocyte defect
- E. Acute HIV

## Question #2

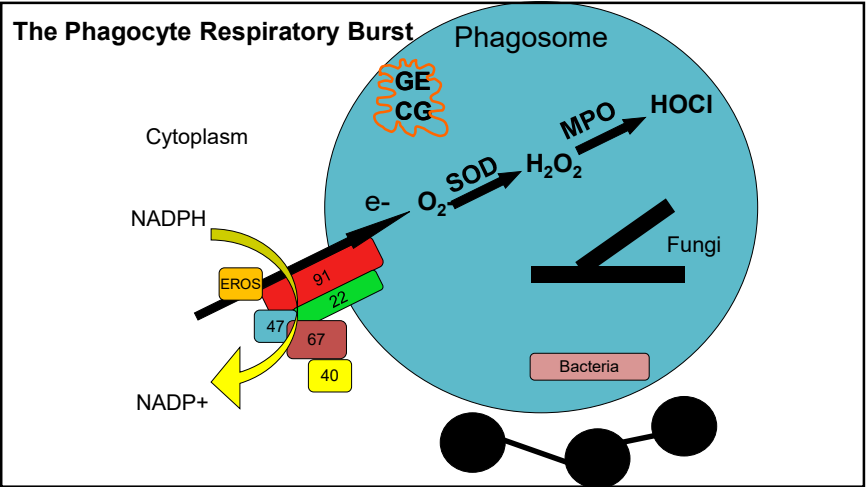
Which of the following is a cause of invasive aspergillosis in an otherwise normal host?

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- B. Cystic fibrosis
- C. Lymphocyte dysfunction (SCID)
- D. **Phagocyte defect**
- E. Acute HIV

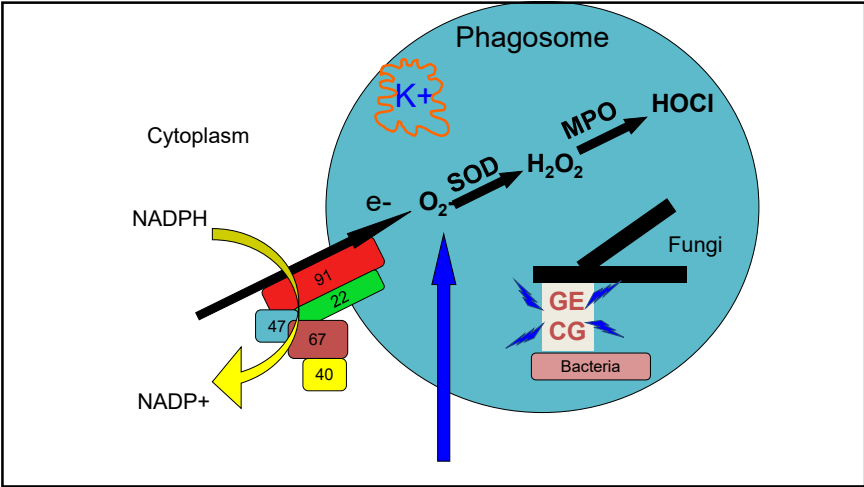
11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense  
Speaker: Steven Holland, MD



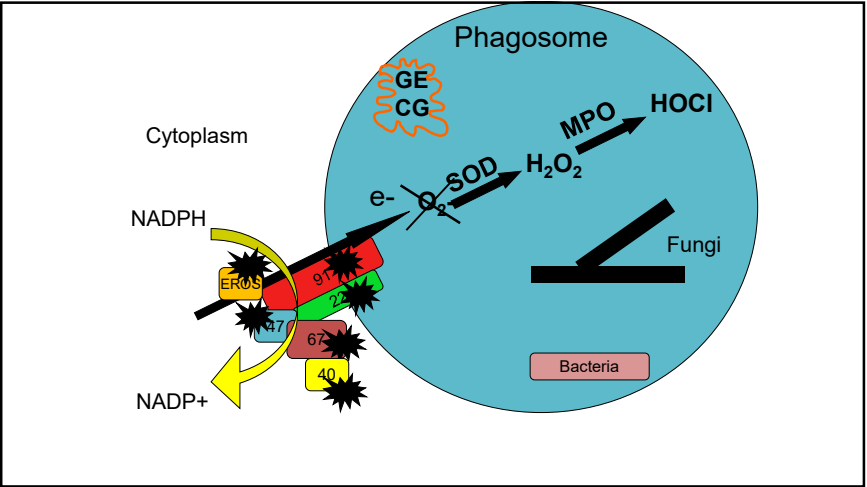
37



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39



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11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

Chronic Granulomatous Disease (X, AR)

Failure to make the phagocyte respiratory burst

Frequency 1/100,000 - 1/200,000 live births

- Presentation usually in childhood; more adults recognized

Recurrent life-threatening infections

- Catalase-positive bacteria, fungi (nuanced)
- Tissue granuloma formation

**Infections:** Lung, liver, lymph nodes, skin, bone

**Bacteremia:** Uncommon but bad

41

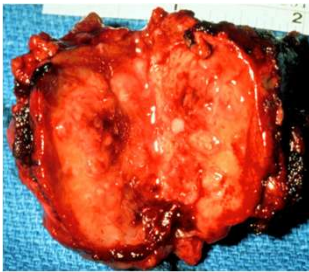
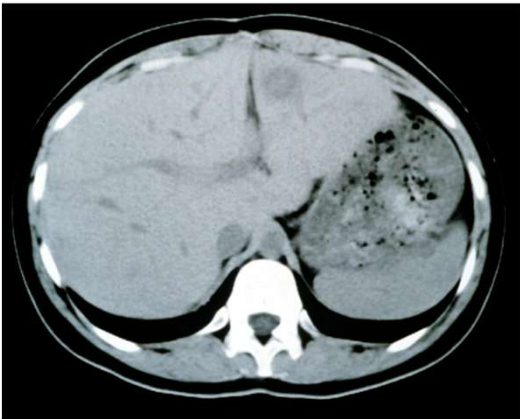
Infections in CGD

- S. Aureus* (liver, lymph nodes, osteo)
- S. Marsescens* (skin, lung, lymph nodes)
- B. Cepacia* (pneumonia, bacteremia)
- Nocardia spp.* (pneumonia, brain, liver)
- Aspergillus spp.* (lung, esp. miliary, spine)
- Salmonella* (enteric, bacteremia)
- BCG* (local/regional infections)
- Chromobacterium violaceum* (warm brackish water, soil, e.g., Disney World)
- Francisella philomiragia* (brackish water, Chesapeake Bay, Sounds)
- Burkholderia gladioli* (causes onion rot)
- Granulibacter bethesdensis* (necrotizing LN, hard to grow, likes CYE)
- Paecilomyces spp.*

Pediatric Health Med Ther 2020 Jul 22;11:257-268.

42

Staphylococcal Liver Abscess in CGD



CID 2018;66:1427-1434

43

Staphylococcal Lymphadenitis in CGD



44

***Staph aureus* Osteomyelitis in CGD**



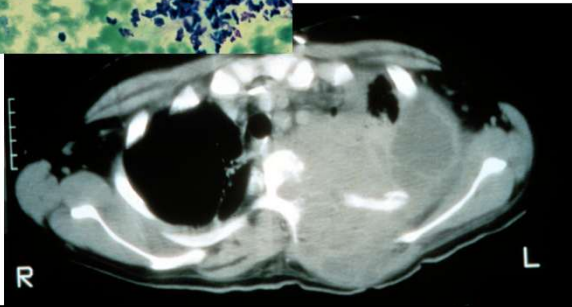
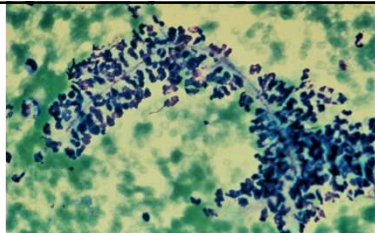
45

***Burkholderia cepacia* Complex Bacteremia in CGD**



46

**CGD  
*Aspergillus nidulans*  
Pneumonia**



47

**Thoracotomy 10 Days Postop**

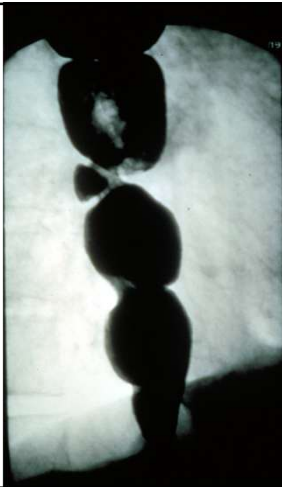


**CGD Granulomatous Wound Dehiscence**

48



**CGD  
Granulomatous  
Esophageal  
Obstruction**



49

**CGD Inflammatory Bowel Disease**



50

**Chronic Granulomatous Disease**

- X-linked, chr. Xp21 (70% of US cases)
    - Carrier females are mosaic (Lyonization)
    - 1/2 of offspring of carrier Mom will receive the gene
      - ~1/3 of carriers are sporadic, from sperm
    - X-linked male: all daughters carriers, no sons affected
  - Autosomal recessive (30% of cases)
- Dx -** PMN dihydrorhodamine 123 oxidation (DHR)  
[PMN nitroblue tetrazolium reduction (NBT) is the old test]  
(MPO Deficiency gives a FALSE ABNORMAL DHR)

BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE LAB AND HOW YOU DISCUSS IT!

51

**CGD Management and Treatment**

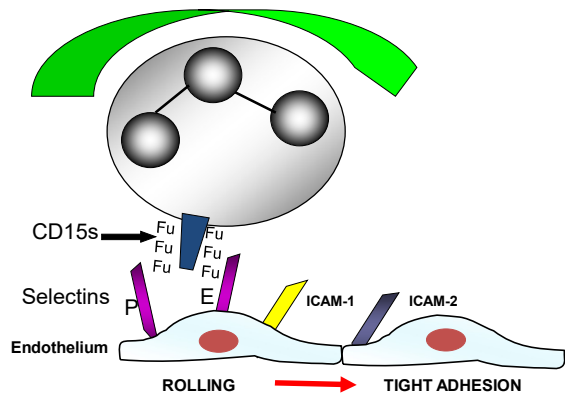
- 90% overall long-term survival
- Follow CRP, radiographs
- Prophylactic antibiotics and antifungals
  - TMP/SMX, itraconazole
- Prophylactic interferon gamma
  - 50 µg/m<sup>2</sup> subcutaneously three times weekly
- Aggressive search for and treatment of infections
- BMT (gene therapy)

Hematol Oncol Clin North Am. 2013 Feb;27(1):89-99

52

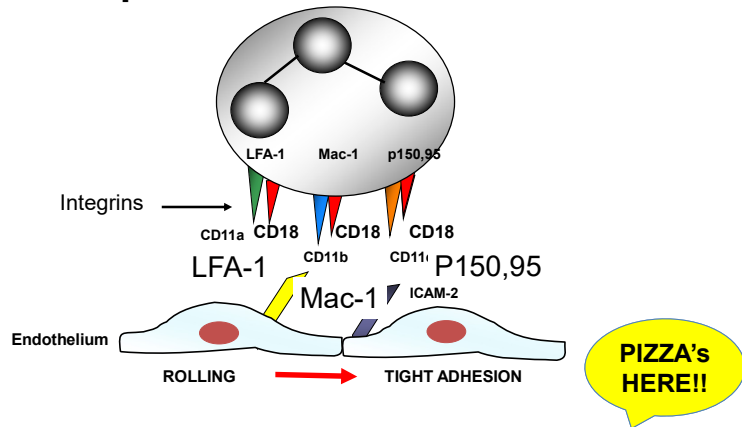


Neutrophil Rolling



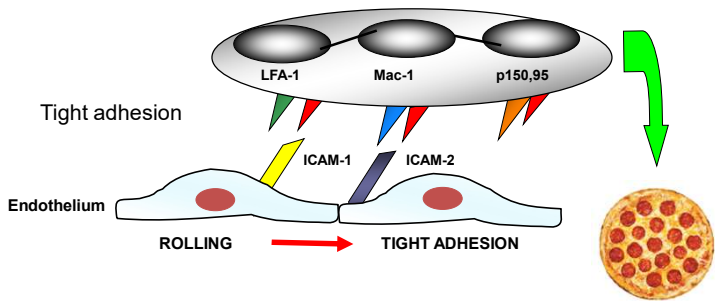
53

Neutrophil Adhesion



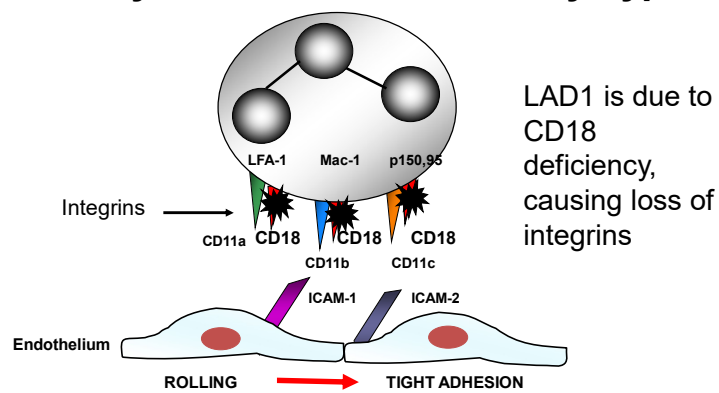
54

Neutrophil Tissue Entry (Diapedesis)



55

Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency Type 1



56

# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

## Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency Type 1 (AR)

- Failure to attach to the endothelium due to mutations CD18
- Recurrent necrotizing infections: skin, perineum, lung, gut
- Enteric GNR, GPC, NOT fungi or *Candida*
- Baseline leukocytosis, further WBC increase to infection
- Rare, consanguinity common

**Dx** - FACS for CD18,  
Complement dependent opsonization

**Rx** - Treatment of infections, BMT

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## Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency I

- Delayed umbilical stump separation
- Dystrophic, “cigarette paper” scars
- Gingivitis with tooth loss, alveolar ridge resorption
- Biopsies: no neutrophils at sites of infection, rare monocytes and eosinophils
- Severe and moderate forms of disease

58

## Almost Universal Tooth Loss in LAD1 By Adulthood



59

## Impaired Wound Healing in LAD1

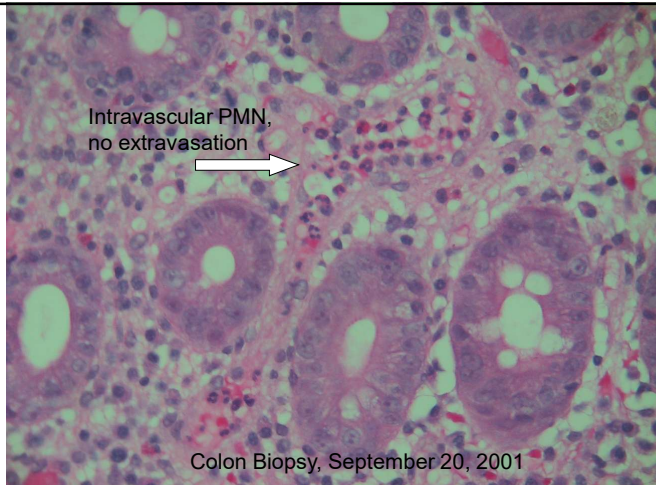


60

Cigarette Paper Scarring



61



62

Question #3

19-year-old boy with Pneumonia

- Admission WBC 43,000, looked OK
- Ceftriaxone, good response
- Medical student: WBC never <11,000/mcl
- Left shin ulcer not inflamed
- Not healed in > 2 mos
- She raises the possibility of Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency (LAD1)

63

Question #3

Which of the following would lead to a ruling against LAD1?

- A. Gingivitis, tooth loss, and alveolar ridge resorption
- B. FACS showing 5% of normal expression of CD18 and CD11a-c on granulocytes
- C. He is the product of a first cousin union
- D. Extensive neutrophil infiltration in the left shin ulcer
- E. Multiple dystrophic scars over the legs from previous ulcers

64

Question #3

Which of the following would lead to a ruling against LAD1?

- A. Gingivitis, tooth loss, and alveolar ridge resorption
- B. FACS showing 5% of normal expression of CD18 and CD11a-c on granulocytes
- C. He is the product of a first cousin union
- D. Extensive neutrophil infiltration in the left shin ulcer**
- E. Multiple dystrophic scars over the legs from previous ulcers

65

27-year-old Woman with Boils

Referred from her internist for recurrent boils with *S. aureus*

- IgE of 12,376 IU
- “Bronchitis and sinusitis at least once a year”
- Persistent eczema requiring topical steroids
- Never hospitalized but having “more trouble” lately

66

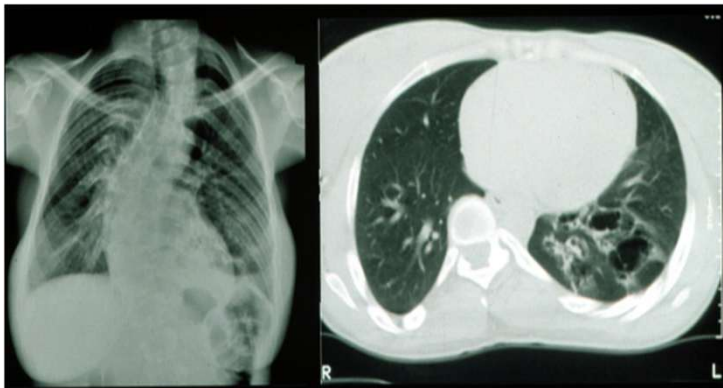


67

HIE (Job’s) Syndrome History and Exam

Eczema	100%
<b>Facies</b>	<b>100% (≥16y)</b>
Boils	87%
Pneumonia	87%
Mucocutaneous Candidiasis	83%
<b>Pulmonary Cysts</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Scoliosis</b>	<b>76% (≥ 16y)</b>
<b>Delayed dental deciduation</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Coronary artery aneurysms</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Pathologic fractures</b>	<b>57%</b>

68



69

Pulmonary Pathogens in HIE

Primary pathogens:

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- *Hemophilus influenzae*

Secondary pathogens:

- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- *Aspergillus fumigatus*

Others:

- *Pneumocystis jiroveci*, *M. avium* complex

70



71



72

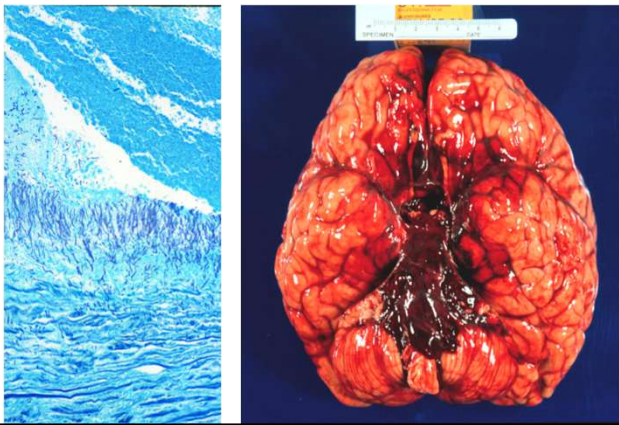


Aspergillus Lung Infection



73

Metastatic Aspergillus Brain Infection



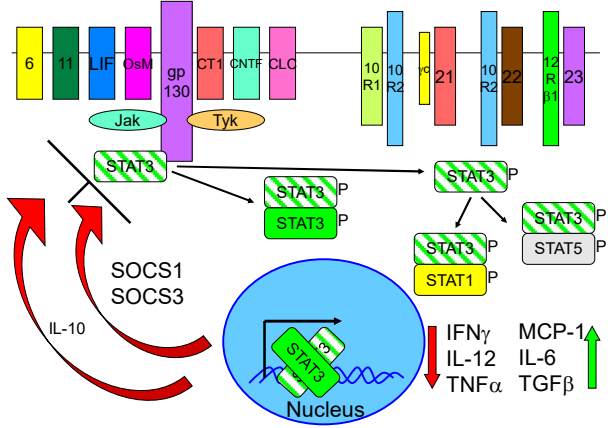
74

Failure Of Primary Dental Deciduation



75

Dominant Negative Mutant STAT3



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# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

## Hyper IgE Recurrent Infection (Job's)

- Recurrent sinopulmonary infections *S. aureus*, *S. pneumo*, *H. flu*
- Post-infectious pulmonary cyst formation
- Recurrent *S. aureus* skin abscesses
- Characteristic facies, eczema, scoliosis, fractures
- Very elevated IgE (>2000 IU), eosinophilia

**DDx** - Atopic dermatitis is a close mimic  
Job's: pneumonia, lung cysts, skeletal, mutations in *STAT3*

**Rx** - Treatment of infections, prophylactic antibiotics, antifungals  
BMT

J Clin Immunol. 2021;41:864-880

77

## DOCK8 Deficiency

Autosomal Recessive hyper IgE syndrome

Eczema, allergies, asthma, high IgE  
*Staph*, *Strep*, *H. flu*, *Acinetobacter*, *Pseudomonas*

*Candida*, *Cryptococcus*, *Histoplasma*

HPV, HSV, molluscum

Squamous cell carcinomas, lymphoma

J Clin Immunol 2021 May 1. doi: 10.1007/s10875-021-01051-1.

78

## DOCK8 Deficiency



HPV



Molluscum  
contagiosum

N Engl J Med. 2009;361:2046-55

79

## DOCK8 Deficiency



Atopic  
Dermatitis



HSV

80

DOCK8 vs. STAT3 Hyper IgEs

	DOCK8 (Recessive)	STAT3 (Dominant)
Pneumonia	+	+++
Pneumatoceles	-	+++
Retained teeth	-	+++
Fractures	-	+++
Viral infections	+++	-
Fungal infections	+	++
Allergies	+++	-
IgM	Low	Normal
Eosinophils	+ to ++	+

81

Question #4

15-year-old girl with recurrent infections

- Infancy: eczema, recurrent pneumonias, skin infections
- IgE 14,574 IU/ml
- Allergist: use bed covers to avoid dust mites

Going over the allotted 15 minutes you elicit points trying to establish whether she has hyper-IgE recurrent infection syndrome (Job's).

82

Question #4

Which one of the following is not supportive of the diagnosis of Job's?

- A. Pneumatoceles
- B. Scoliosis
- C. Severe warts
- D. Retained baby teeth
- E. Recurrent fractures

83

Question #4

Which one of the following is not supportive of the diagnosis of Job's?

- A. Pneumatoceles
- B. Scoliosis
- C. Severe warts
- D. Retained baby teeth
- E. Recurrent fractures

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Clinical Spectrum of NTM Infections

**Disseminated**  
Severe, Young  
IFN $\gamma$ /IL-12 defects  
NEMO, STAT1



IMMUNE

**Skin**  
Exposure  
Inoculation



EXPOSURE

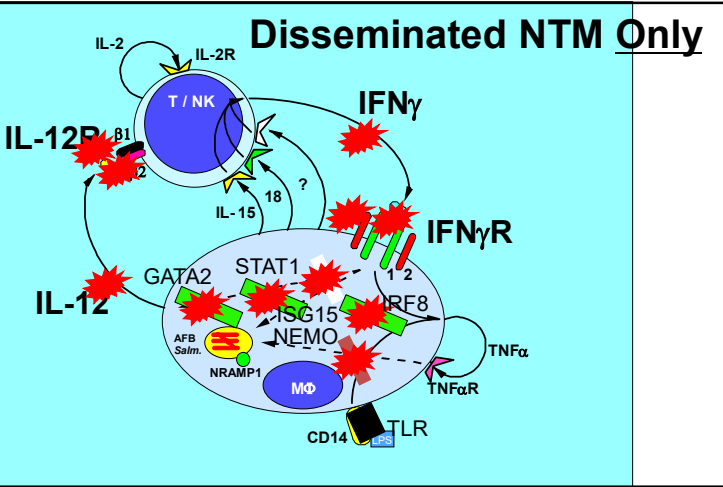
**Pulmonary**  
Chronic, Older  
Bronchiectasis  
Cystic fibrosis (CF)  
Ciliary dyskinesia (PCD)



EPITHELIAL

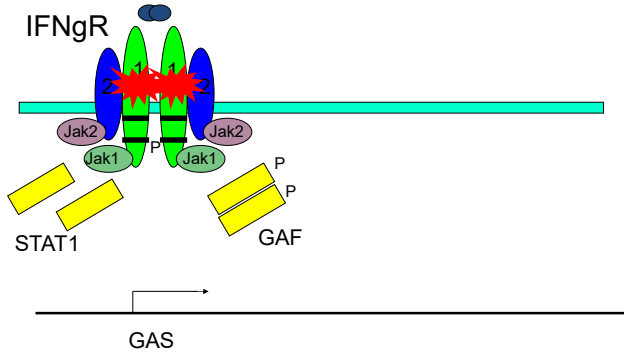
Lancet Infect Dis. 2015;15:968-80

85



86

Autosomal Recessive IFNGR1 (Both Alleles)



87



BCG Vaccinated  
Local and Disseminated BCGosis

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*Speaker: Steven Holland, MD*

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Interferon  $\gamma$  Receptor Deficiencies

- Absent or defective IFN $\gamma$ R1
  - MAC and other NTM, *Salmonella*, TB, viruses
  - Complete defects present in childhood
  - Partial defects present later in life
  - May be misdiagnosed as malignancy!
  - NOT a cause of isolated lung disease in adults
- Dx - genetics, flow cytometry for IFN $\gamma$ R1
- Rx - antimycobacterials (BMT)

N Engl J Med. 2017;377:1077-1091.

93

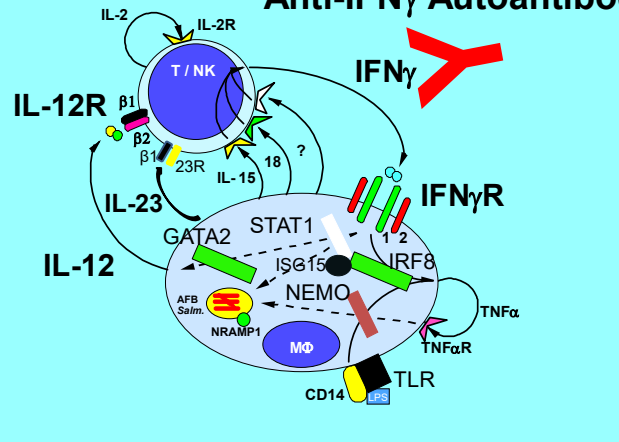
60-year-old Vietnamese woman

- USA 1970s
- 1 year recurring disseminated *M. avium* complex
- Numerous fistulae



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Anti-IFN $\gamma$  Autoantibodies



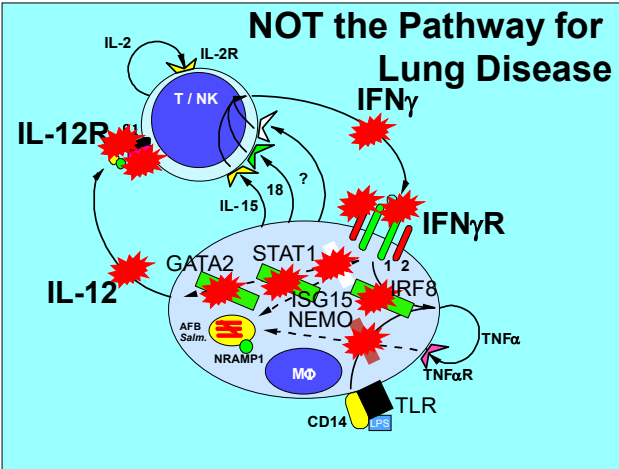
95

Anti-IFN $\gamma$  Autoantibody Syndrome

- Disseminated NTM later in life also TB, *Talaromyces*, *Burkholderia*, VZV
- Predominantly female, mostly East Asian
- Dx-anti-IFN $\gamma$  autoantibody detection  
Quantiferon is often **INDETERMINATE**
- Rx- antimycobacterials, possibly rituximab

NEJM 2012;367:725

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**Question #5**

**30-year-old Thai Woman with Back Pain**

- 2 months pain and weight loss
- HIV-, normal CBC and chemistries, normal CD4
- Biopsy: osteomyelitis, MAC growing
- Quantiferon indeterminate
- You suspect that she has the anti-interferon gamma autoantibody syndrome

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**Question #5**

**Supporting this diagnosis, what should you do?**

- A. Check complements and total IgG
- B. Determine anti-IFNγ antibody levels
- C. Determine anti-GM-CSF autoantibody levels
- D. Determine anti-IFNα autoantibody levels
- E. Determine her cellular response to IFNγ

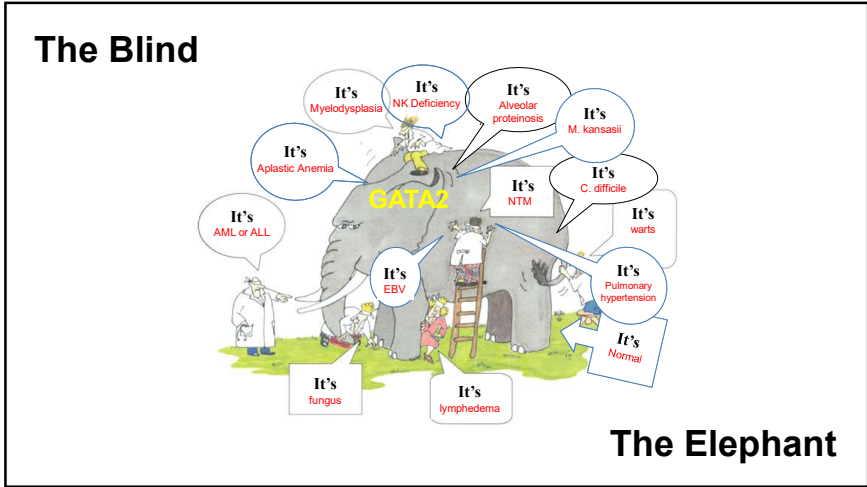
99

**Question #5**

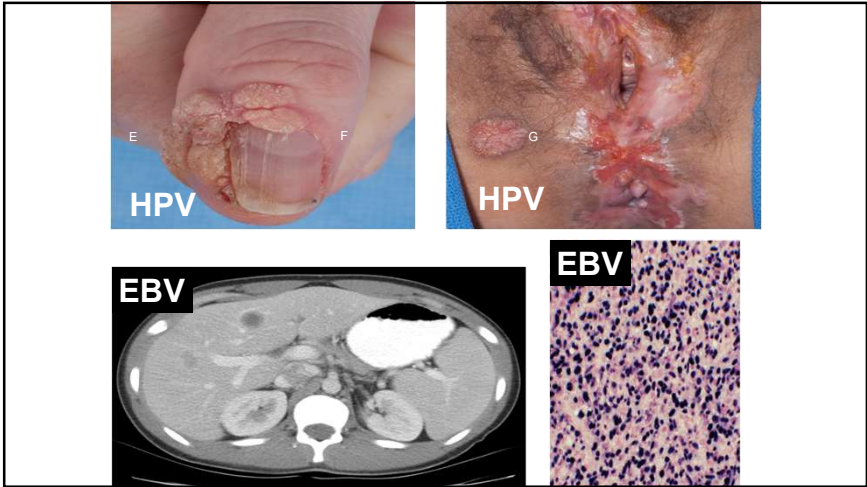
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- A. Check complements and total IgG
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- C. Determine anti-GM-CSF autoantibody levels
- D. Determine anti-IFNα autoantibody levels
- E. Determine her cellular response to IFNγ

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**GATA2 Deficiency**

- Heterozygous mutations in *GATA2*, a critical hematopoietic gene
- Adolescent to adult onset
  - HPV (hands, genitals, cervical, vulvar)
  - Disseminated NTM (mediastinal *M. kansasii*)
  - Pancytopenia
- Labs: profound monocytopenia, low B, low NK
- CT: subpleural blebs
- Autosomal dominant
- Dx: genetics, hypocellular marrow, abnormal megakaryocytes
- Rx: antibiotics, BMT

Blood 2014; 123:809-21

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**Idiopathic CD4+ T-lymphocytopenia**

- Idiopathic CD4+ T-lymphocytopenia (ICL)
  - $\leq 300$  CD4+/ $\mu$ l
  - Associated with AIDS-like infections (crypto, PCP, MAC)
    - Exclude HIV infection (PCR, bDNA, p24, culture)
    - Often older onset than HIV associated OI
    - Surprisingly stable, consider incident cancers
- **Dx** - Determination of ICL (FACS)
  - Often due to an underlying defect, so LOOK
- **Rx** - Treat infections (follow CD4+, ?cytokines)

N Engl J Med. 2023;388:1680-1691

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# 11 Clinical Immunology and Host Defense

Speaker: Steven Holland, MD

## Screening Laboratories

- For Lymphocytes
  - Ig levels
  - Immunization status (tetanus, pneumovax)
  - CD4+ number
  - *Genetics* (exome studies, panels)

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## Screening Laboratories

- Phagocytes
  - DHR for CGD
  - Genetics for everything else
- Complement
  - CH<sub>50</sub> (classical pathway)
  - AH<sub>50</sub> (alternative pathway)
  - Think about the gene involved!
  - Use Pubmed OMIM
  - Sequence is faster and cheaper than you think

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