

HIV and Opportunistic Infections

Vidhu Kariyawasam, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville
Faculty, North Florida AETC

Disclosures

- The activity planners and speaker do not have any financial relationships with commercial entities to disclose.
- The speaker will not discuss any off-label use or investigational product during the program.

This slideset has been peer-reviewed to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest represented in the presentation.



Session Objectives

- Recognize the most common opportunistic infections (OIs)
- Discuss prophylaxis and treatment of common Ols
- Describe types of exposures and ways to prevent Ols



Definition: Opportunistic Infection (OI)

- Infection by a microorganism that normally does not cause disease but becomes pathogenic when the body's immune system is impaired and unable to fight off infection
- Frequently a reactivation of an infection acquired in the past which was controlled when immune system was functional (latent infection)
- Can occur de novo
- Typically caused by a low virulence organism that becomes overwhelming due to poor cell mediated immunity

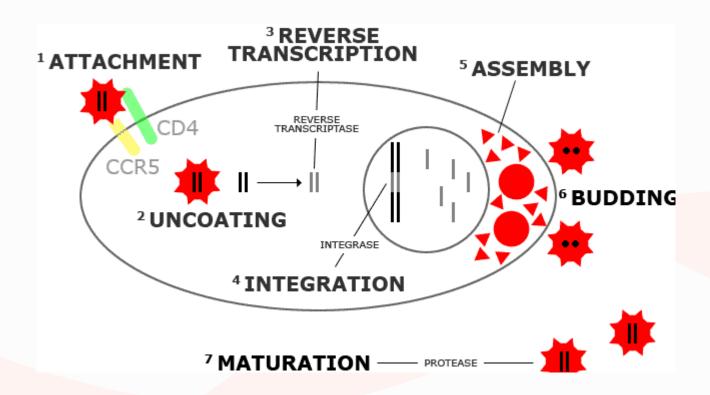


CD4 Cells

- Type of white blood cell involved in cell mediated immunity
- Normal: 500 1500 CD4 cells/mm³
- Determines OI risk -Highest risk for HIV related infections occurs with CD4 < 200
- No longer used to determine need to start antiretroviral therapy (ART)

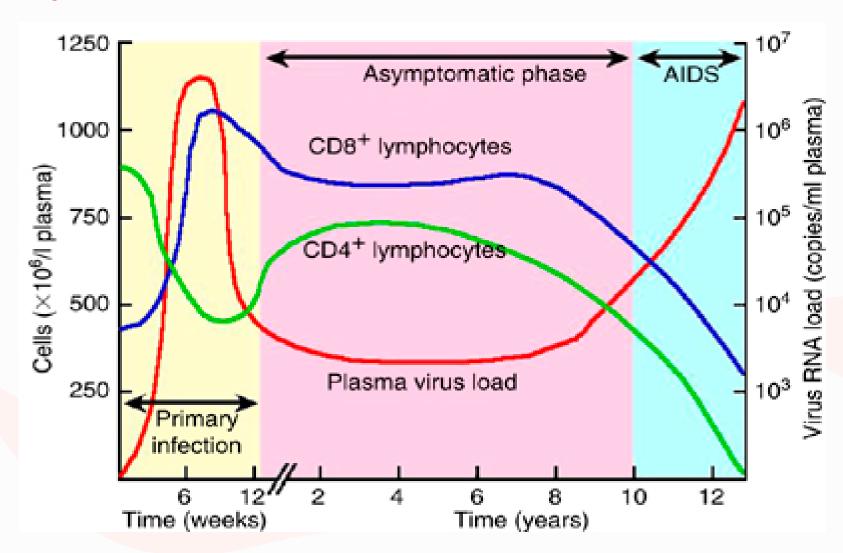


HIV Life Cycle





Typical Course of Untreated HIV- Infection





2014 CDC Revised Classification System: Stage 3-Defining Opportunistic Illnesses in HIV Infection

- Bacterial infections, multiple or recurrent*
- Candidiasis of bronchia, trachea, or lungs
- Candidiasis of esophagus
- Cervical cancer, invasive⁺
- Coccidioidomycosis, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- Cryptococcosis, extrapulmonary
- Cryptosporidiosis, chronic intestinal (>1 month)
- Cytomegalovirus disease (other than liver, spleen, or nodes), onset age > 1 month
- Cytomegalovirus retinitis (with loss of vision)
- Encephalopathy attributed to HIV[^]
- Herpes simplex: chronic ulcers (present for >1 month) or bronchitis, pneumonitis, or esophagitis (onset at age > 1 month)
- Histoplasmosis, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- Isosporiasis, chronic intestinal (> 1 month's duration)
- Kaposi's sarcoma

- Lymphoma, Burkitt's (or equivalent term)
- Lymphoma, immunoblastic (or equivalent term)
- · Lymphoma, primary of brain
- Mycobacterium avium complex or Mycobacterium kansasii, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis of any site, pulmonary⁺, disseminated, or extrapulmonary
- Mycobacterium, other species or unidentified species, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- Pneumocystis jirovecii (previously known as "Pneumocystis carinii") pneumonia
- Pneumonia, recurrent⁺
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
- Salmonella septicemia, recurrent
- Toxoplasmosis of brain, onset at age > 1 month
- Wasting syndrome attributed to HIV

CDC.gov. Revised surveillance case definition for HIV Infection – United States, 2015. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2014;63(RR-03):1-10.



^{*}Only among children aged < 6 years

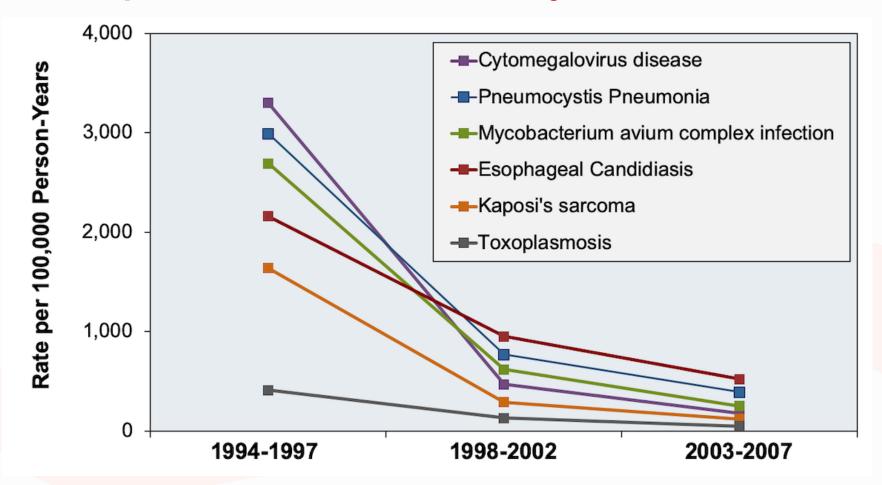
Only among adults, adolescents, and children aged ≥ 6 years

[^]Suggested diagnostic criteria for these illnesses are defined in prior surveillance case definitions

Opportunistic Infection Risk

Tuberculosis • Pneumocystisis jirovecii pneumonia (PCP) Toxoplasmosis Cryptococccal meningitis Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infections Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) < 50

AIDS Defining Opportunistic Illnesses in US, HIV Outpatient Cohort Study, 1994-2007





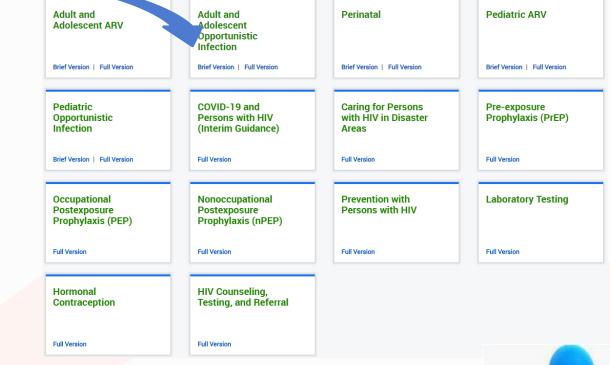
Why do we still see Ols?

- Undiagnosed or late diagnosis of HIV
- Known HIV infection with poor retention in care
- Not on stable antiretroviral therapy (ART)



DHHS Guidelines HIV.gov







Evidence Rating: DHHS Guidelines

Evidence Rating:

Strength of Recommendation:

A: Strong recommendation for the statement

B: Moderate recommendation for the statement

C: Optional recommendation for the statement

Quality of Evidence for the Recommendation:

I: One or more randomized trials with clinical outcomes and/or validated laboratory endpoints

II: One or more well-designed, nonrandomized trials or observational cohort studies with long-term clinical outcomes

III: Expert opinion

In cases where there are no data for the prevention or treatment of an OI based on studies conducted in HIV-infected populations, but data derived from HIV-uninfected patients exist that can plausibly guide management decisions for patients with HIV/AIDS, the data will be rated as III but will be assigned recommendations of A, B, C depending on the strength of recommendation.

DHHS. Adult and Adolescent Guidelines. Updated 02/2022.



Opportunistic Infections

- Can be first presentation of HIV
- Cause morbidity and mortality
- Often preventable
 - OI Prophylaxis
 - Antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS)



OI Prophylaxis

Primary Prophylaxis

Prevention of first episode of disease Risk is based on CD4 count

Secondary Prophylaxis

Prevention of relapse of disease after treatment



Primary Prophylaxis

OI	Indication	Preferred
Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)	CD4 < 200 CD4 < 14% If ART initiation has to be delayed, CD4 ≥ 200, but < 250 and can't monitor every 3 mos	 TMP-SMX 1 DS tab PO daily TMP-SMX 1 SS tablet daily
Toxoplasma gondii Encephalitis	Toxoplasma IgG positive with CD4 < 100	TMP-SMX 1 DS PO daily
Mycobacterium avium Complex (MAC)	 CD4 < 50 Not recommended for those who immediately start ART Rule out active disease before starting 	 Azithromycin 1200 mg PO once weekly Clarithromycin 500 mg PO BID Azithromycin 600 mg PO twice weekly



When to Stop Primary Prophylaxis

OI	Indications for Discontinuing Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Restarting Primary Prophylaxis
Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)	 CD4 increased from < 200 to > 200 for > 3 mos in response to ART Can consider when CD4 count 100-200 if HIV RNA < limit of detection for ≥ 3-6 mos 	 CD4 < 100 CD4 100-200 and HIV RNA above detection limit of assay
Toxoplasma gondii encephalitis	 CD4 > 200 for > 3 mos in response to ART Consider when CD4 100-200 if HIV RNA < limit of detection for at least 3-6 mos 	 CD4 count <100 CD4 100-200 and HIV RNA above detection limit of assay
Mycobacterium avium Complex (MAC)	Initiation of effective ART	CD4 < 50, only if not on fully suppressive ART



Secondary Prophylaxis

Disease	Preferred Drug	Stop
PCP	TMP/SMX (AI)	CD4 > 200 for > 3 months (AII)
Toxoplasmosis	Pyrimethamine + Sulfadiazine + Leucovorin (AI) or TMP/SMX (BII)	Completed initial therapy and CD4 > 200 for > 6 months (BI)
MAC	Clarithromycin + Ethambutol (AI) or Azithromycin + Ethambutol (AII)	Completed > 12 months therapy, asymptomatic and CD4 > 100 for > 6 months (AII)



Case Scenario 1

- Mr A is a 36 yo man admitted with fever, weight loss and productive cough for 1 month. Prior to admission, he received 2 courses of antibiotics from his PCP without improvement in his symptoms. Over the last week, he noted progressively worsening shortness of breath and now cannot walk 15 feet without stopping to catch his breath
- Epidemiology: lives in Florida, no travel, no street drug use, has male sex partners only
- CBC & CMP normal
- LDH 800 mg/dL
- Room air ABG pH 7.44 PaCO₂ 32 mm Hg, PaO₂ 62 mm Hg, HCO₃ 20 mEq/L
- What do you think is going on? How will you make a diagnosis?



Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)

- Causative organisms: Pneumocystis jiroveci
- Prior to effective use of ART and PCP prophylaxis, occurred in up to 80% of people with AIDS
 - Initially thought to be a protozoan, but DNA analysis demonstrated it is a fungus
 - Airborne
 - Species specific: PCP only affects humans



Diagnosis

Nondefinitive

- Chest Xray
- High resolution chest CT
- Exercise pulse ox
- Labs
 - Elevated LDH (> 500 mg/dl)
 - 1,3-beta-D-glucan ≥ 80 pg/mL

Definitive — detection of organism in resp secretions or tissue

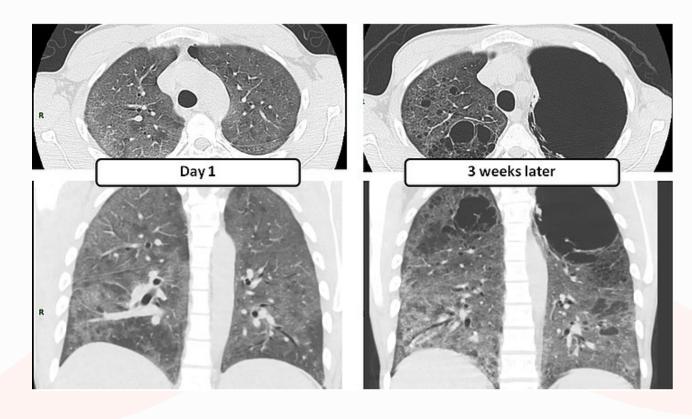
- Induced sputum
- Bronchoscopy
- Transbronchial or open lung biopsy
- Detection of P jiroveci organisms in sample



Chest Imaging Suggestive of PCP



National HIV Curriculum Available at hiv.uw.edu.



Rice KM. Global Radiology CME. October 21, 2015.

Available at https://www.globalradcme.com/single-post/2015/10/21/Pneumocystis-Pneumonia-PCP-with-Pneumatoceles-1



Should Mr. A Be Admitted?

Mild to Moderate PCP

- PaO2 > 70 mm Hg
- A-a gradient < than 35
- If nontoxic appearing, can consider outpatient treatment

Moderate to Severe PCP

- Room air PO2 < 70 mmHg
- A-a gradient ≥ 35
- Must be admitted



PCP: Treatment (mild-moderate disease)

Preferred Regimen (oral)

TMP-SMX (high dose) (AI)

Alternative Regimens (oral)

- Dapsone + TMP (BI)
- Primaquine + clindamycin (BI)
- Atovaquone (BI)



PCP: Treatment (moderate-severe)

Preferred Regimen (AI)

- TMP-SMX (IV) + steroids
- Steroids if PaO₂ <70 mmHg at room air or Alveolar-arterial O₂ gradient ≥35 mm Hg
- Start ASAP and within 72 hours of PCP therapy

Alternative Regimens

- Pentamidine (AI)
- Primaquine + clindamycin (AI)



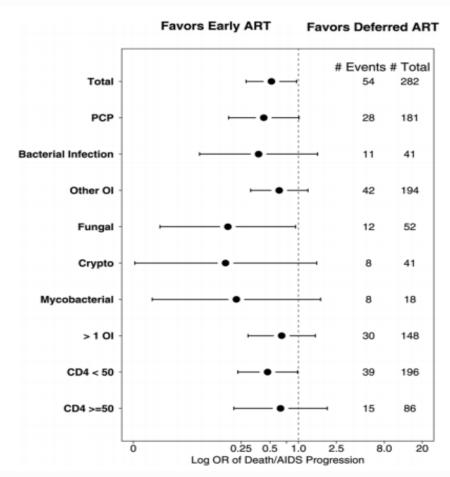
PCP: Treatment

- After completion of 21 day treatment, start secondary prophylaxis
- Patients with PCP can be slow to improve
 - Watch out for nonadherence or IRIS-may need prolonged treatment/readmit
- Consider this diagnosis in patient with HIV and pneumothorax
- Failure of TMP-SMX is rare, even in people who were taking it for PCP prophylaxis



Should Mr. A be started on ART? When?

 ART should be started within 2 weeks of diagnosis of PCP



Zolopa AR, et al. PloS One. 2009;4:35575.



Case Scenario 2

- Mr. B is a 44 year old man who arrives in the emergency room complaining of a 5 day history of headaches and new onset seizures. He is post-ictal after a witnessed seizure but can tell you he has a history of HIV and has not taken medications nor seen a healthcare provider in 9 months. There are no prior records in the health system.
- Exam T 36.7C (98.1F) HR 91 RR 16 BP 164/96
- No nuchal rigidity, negative Kernig's and Brudzinski's signs
- Exam otherwise unremarkable
- Labs: CSF WBC 102 Lymph 82% Monos 9%
- RBC 13; protein 40; glucose 63
- Opening pressure: 38 cm H₂O (> 25 cm H₂O abnormal)



Cryptococcal Meningitis

- Most common cause of meningitis in people with advanced HIV
- Cryptococcus neoformans > Cryptococcus gattii
- Hallmark is meningoencephalitis or subacute meningitis symptoms
 - Headache, fever, altered mental status
 - Classic meningitis symptoms in only 1/4 to 1/3 of patients
 - May see signs/symptoms of elevated CSF pressure
 - Approximately 25-30% of pts have a normal CSF profile
- Needs admission: lumbar puncture, IV treatment
- Prolonged treatment course (induction, consolidation, maintenance)



Mr. B — Follow-up

- CSF cryptococcal antigen 1:1024
- CSF culture: Cryptococcus neoformans
- Therapeutic LPs done daily and eventually a VP shunt was placed due to persistently elevated CSF pressure
- Keppra started for seizure prophylaxis





Cryptococcal Meningitis: Treatment

- Induction therapy for 2+ weeks
 - Preferred: Amphotericin B + flucytosine (5FC)
 - Preferred: liposomal formulation of amphotericin but can use other formulations
- Consolidation therapy for 8 weeks
 - Preferred: fluconazole 800mg
- Chronic maintenance therapy
 - Preferred fluconazole 200mg



Cryptococcal Meningitis Chronic Maintenance Therapy: Duration

- Duration (BII):
 - Completed 1 year of maintenance therapy
 - Asymptomatic
 - CD4 count ≥ 100 for ≥ 3 months and suppressed HIV RNA in response to effective ART

Restart maintenance if patient's CD4 drops less than 100

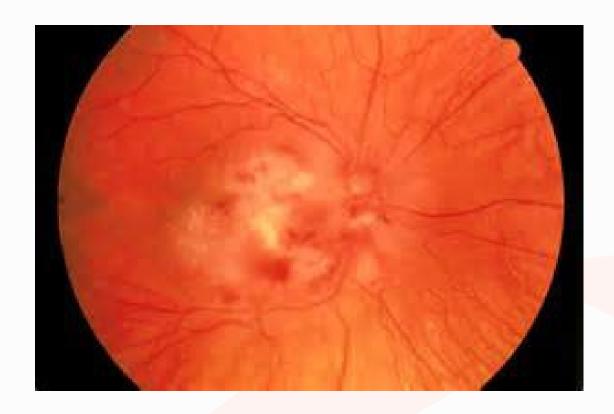


Case Scenario 3

- Mrs. C presents to the emergency room in rural Florida with complaints of enlarging blind spots in her vision for the last week. She has a history of HIV with loss to follow and poor adherence to ART.
- She was referred to ophthalmology and saw them one week later, but had complete vision loss by that time.



CMV Retinitis



Imagebank.asrs.org



CMV (virus)

- Double-stranded DNA virus
- CMV retinitis is most common manifestation
- Presents first in one eye (floaters, visual field defects) and then may spread to the other
- Can affect any organ, disseminate-colitis/esophagitis, encephalitis/ventriculitis, or hepatitis
- No primary prophylaxis recommended (AI)
- CMV viremia can be detected by PCR, antigen assays or culture
 - Usually but not always present in end organ disease
 - Some patients can have viremia and no end organ disease
- Needs admission: eye exam and treatment (oral vs IV/intravitreal)



CMV Retinitis: Treatment

Preferred Regimen (AI)

Intravitreal injections of ganciclovir or foscarnet (AIII)

+

Valganciclovir (high dose) for 14-21 days, then lower dosing (AI)



CMV Retinitis: Secondary Prophylaxis

Preferred Regimen (AI)

Valganciclovir

Duration:

- CMV treatment for at least 3–6 months, lesions are inactive, with CD4 count >100 cells/mm³ for 3 to 6 months in response to ART (AII)
- Discontinue in consultation with an ophthalmologist



Case Scenario 4

• Ms. D is a 33 year old woman, recently diagnosed with HIV after presenting with *Toxoplasma* infection, for which she is receiving treatment. Five weeks ago you met with her to enroll her in the Ryan White case management services and she started ART shortly thereafter. Today she is here to discuss things further and you note that she is very confused and agitated.

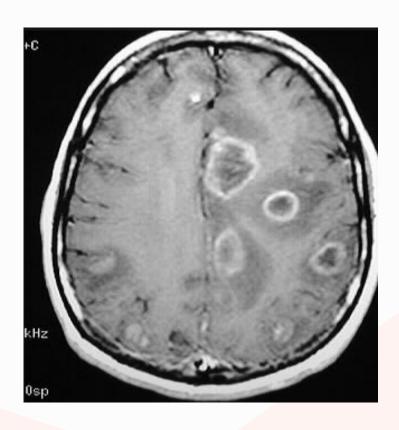


Toxoplasma gondii Encephalitis

- Protozoan
- Disease almost always due to reactivation of latent cysts
- Prior to availability of ART, 12-month incidence of toxoplasma encephalitis was 33% in those seropositive for *T gondii* and not on prophylaxis
- Rare if CD4 > 200 greatest risk if CD4 < 50</p>



Toxoplasma: Brain CT



Typically multiple contrast-enhancing lesions in gray matter of cortex or basal ganglia, but can have single or no lesions

http://neuroradiologyteachingfiles.com/bfa.html



Treatment

≥ 6 weeks

Preferred Regimen (AI)

Pyrimethamine + sulfadiazine + leucovorin

Note: if pyrimethamine is unavailable/there is a delay in obtaining it, TMP-SMX should be utilized in place of pyrimethamine-sulfadiazine (BI)

Alternative Regimen

numerous others exist



Treatment Chronic Maintenance

Preferred Regimen (AI)

Pyrimethamine + sulfadiazine + leucovorin

Duration:

- completed initial therapy
- asymptomatic
- CD4 count > 200 for > 6 months (BI)



When to Start Antiretroviral Therapy in *T gondii*Encephalitis?

- No data
- Many would start ART within 2-3 weeks after diagnosis of T gondii encephalitis

- Should you start anticonvulsant therapy?
 - Only if patient has a seizure
 - If indicated, continue through period of acute therapy



Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome: IRIS

- Inflammatory disease in response to a specific opportunistic pathogen weeks to months after starting ART
 - 1) Paradoxical IRIS: Exacerbation of partially or recently treated OI
 - 2) Unmasking IRIS: Inflammatory response to a previously undiagnosed OI
- Caused by enhanced/dysregulated immune response to antigens
- Greatest risk when starting ART at a high viral load and CD4 < 50
- Can be difficult to identify -> diagnosis of exclusion
- Management: treat OI, continue ART, treat with anti-inflammatory if necessary (NSAIDS, steroids)



When Should ART Be Started?

Opportunistic Infection	When to start ARV's
PCP/PJP	Within 2 weeks (AI)
Cryptococcus meningitis	Between 2-10 weeks (BIII)
Toxoplasma encephalitis	Within 2-3 weeks can be up to 6 weeks (CIII)
CMV retinitis	Within 2 weeks (CIII)
Tuberculosis	Pulmonary disease and CD4 < 50 within 2 weeks after TB treatment started If CD4 > 50 (no suspected meningitis) within 8 weeks of TB therapy start
Candidiasis	No delay

CNS Disease in HIV: Differential Diagnosis

- Toxoplasma
- Lymphoma
- Cryptococcus
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)
- CMV
- Aseptic meningitis
- HIV-associated dementia
- PET and SPECT scans helpful in differentiating toxoplasmosis, PML and lymphoma



Mycobacterium avium Complex (MAC)

- Ubiquitous in the environment
- Typically seen in people with CD4 < 50
- Usually disseminated, multi-organ infection, though can be localized
- Typical symptoms: weight loss, fever, night sweats, fatigue, diarrhea and abdominal pain
- Physical finding: hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, or lymphadenopathy
- Lab abnormalities: anemia, elevated liver alkaline phosphatase
- Diagnosis: clinical signs/symptoms + isolation of MAC from cultures of blood, lymph node, bone marrow or other normally sterile tissue or body fluids



MAC: Treatment

Preferred Therapy:

- At least 2 drugs as initial therapy to prevent or delay emergence of resistance (AI)
 - Clarithromycin 500 mg PO twice daily (AI) plus ethambutol 15 mg/kg PO daily (AI), or
 - Azithromycin 500–600 mg (All) plus ethambutol 15 mg/kg PO daily (Al) when drug interactions or intolerance precludes the use of clarithromycin
 - Note: Testing of susceptibility to clarithromycin or azithromycin is recommended.

Chronic Maintenance Therapy (Secondary Prophylaxis):

Same as treatment regimens

Criteria for Discontinuing Chronic Maintenance Therapy (AII):

- Completed at least 12 months therapy, and
- No signs and symptoms of MAC disease, and
- Have sustained (>6 months) CD4 count >100 cells/mm³ in response to ART

Indication for Restarting Secondary Prophylaxis:

CD4 <100 cells/mm³ (AIII)



Oral Candidiasis





Candidiasis

- Oropharyngeal (thrush), esophageal
- Concern when CD4 < 200</p>
- Painless, creamy white, plaque-like lesions on tongue
- Esophageal candidiasis: 'chest pain' or burning, pain on swallowing, nausea -> other differentials exist (CMV, HSV, aphthous ulcers)
- No routine primary prophylaxis (AIII), typically no need for chronic suppressive therapy



Candidiasis

- Oral
 - Preferred therapy fluconazole 100 mg PO daily
 - Duration of therapy 7-14 days
- Esophageal candidiasis
 - Preferred therapy fluconazole 100 mg PO or IV daily or Itraconazole oral solution 200 mg PO daily
 - Duration of therapy 14-21 days



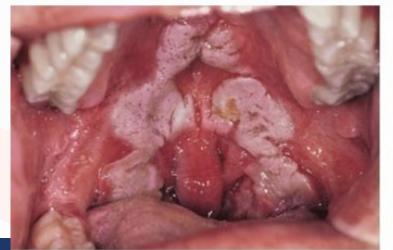
Other Oral Lesions



Kaposi's Sarcoma – HHV8



Oral hairy leukoplakia - EBV







Bacterial Pneumonia in HIV

- Incidence has decreased since availability of ART, but remains more common in people with HIV than those without
- Recurrent pneumonia (2 or more episodes in 1 year) is an AIDS-defining condition
- Can occur at any stage of HIV disease and at any CD4 count
- All people with HIV should receive an annual influenza vaccine



Tuberculosis: #1 OI Worldwide

- Recent transmission, reactivation
- Annual risk of reactivation in people with untreated latent tuberculosis infection and HIV is 3-16%
- Clinical presentation depends on degree of immunodeficiency
 - CD4 > 200 TB limited to lungs, upper lobe fibronodular infiltrates +/- cavitation, caseating granulomas
 - CD4 < 200 extra-pulmonary, lower/middle lobe, interstitial, military infiltrates, non-caseating granulomas



Tuberculosis

- Test for latent TB PPD ≥ 5 mm is positive in person with HIV, rule out active disease
- Interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) Quantiferon TB Gold Plus or T-Spot
- Significant TB exposure? Treat for latent TB regardless of PPD or IGRA
- Active TB? Look out for drug-drug interactions between TB treatment and ART



COVID-19 and HIV

- Whether people with HIV are at greater risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 infection is currently unknown
- In some of the initial case series of people with COVID-19 in Europe and the United States, no significant differences were observed in the clinical outcomes of COVID-19 between people with HIV and people who did not have HIV
- HIV was independently associated with an increased risk of severe and critical COVID-19 in a large trial from the World Health Organization's Global Clinical Platform that included data from 24 countries
- In a multicenter cohort study of 286 patients with HIV and COVID-19 in the United States, lower CD4 T lymphocyte (CD4) cell counts (i.e., <200 cells/mm³) were associated with a higher risk for the composite endpoint of intensive care unit (ICU) admission, invasive mechanical ventilation, or death. This increased risk was observed even in patients who had achieved virologic suppression of HIV</p>



Guidance for All People with HIV

- People with HIV should follow all applicable recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent acquisition of SARS-CoV-2, such as practicing social or physical distancing, wearing masks consistently, avoiding crowded areas, and using proper hand hygiene
- People with HIV should receive the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of CD4 count or viral load, because the potential benefits outweigh potential risks
- In December 2021, the FDA issued an EUA for the combination of tixagevimab with cilgavimab for preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in certain adults who are at risk for severe COVID-19. This EUA included people with advanced or untreated HIV infection (i.e., people with CD4 counts <200 cells/mm³, history of an AIDS-defining illness without immune reconstitution, or clinical manifestations of symptomatic HIV
- People with HIV should not switch their ARV regimens or add ARV drugs to their regimens for the purpose of preventing or treating SARS-CoV-2 infection



Guidance for Managing People with HIV and COVID-19

- Non-hospitalized people with HIV who have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 may be eligible to receive one of the following treatment options:
- ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir,
- sotrovimab,
- remdesivir (3 days as outpatient),
- bebtelovimab,
- molnupiravir.
- Priority should be given to those with advanced HIV infection
- People with HIV who are on a ritonavir- or cobicistat-based ARV regimen and are prescribed a 5-day course of ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir for the treatment of COVID-19 should continue to take their ARV regimen as prescribed without dosage alteration or interruption.
- The treatment of COVID-19 in people with HIV is the same as that for people without HIV (AIII). The therapeutic management strategies for treating COVID-19 are evolving rapidly; clinicians should consult the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines for treatment recommendations for COVID-19 based on disease severity.



Ols: Exposures and Prevention

- Sexual- hepatitis A, B and C, Syphilis , Chlamydia, Gonorrhea
- IV drug abuse (IVDA)-Hep B, Hep C, Bacterial infections
- Environment
- Other individuals
- Animals/Pets
- Food and Water
- Travel



Ols and Adherence

- Adherence to antiretroviral therapy and OI prophylaxis predicts clinical outcomes
- Remind patients that OIs are preventable in most cases!
- Do not presume patients are taking their prophylaxis
- When asking about adherence to ART also ask about adherence to prophylactic medications



Summary

- While OIs are less common than in the past, they still occur
- Risk for OIs predicted by CD4 count
- May see multiple Ols in the same patient
- Keep a high index of suspicion for OIs in people with low adherence or known advanced HIV
- Ols can be prevented by ART and prophylaxis as well as counseling to avoid risks (see Ol guidelines)





Questions?



Thank You.