A REVIEW OF THE USE OF THE PNEUMOCOCCAL URINARY ANTIGEN PROTEIN AS A DIAGNOSTIC BIOMARKER IN THE PAEDIATRIC POPULATION AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LIMERICK OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS

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Background The ‘pneumococcal urinary antigen protein’ assay is a commonly used, and widely accepted, aide in diagnosing pneumonia amongst adult patients. There is little evidence for its use in the paediatric population and it is not validated for use in patients 6 years of age and younger. Nevertheless, there has been an emerging trend in its use at our hospital in the paediatric setting. Interestingly, there seems to have been significant positive correlation between a positive result and clinical presentations consistent with Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP).

Aim Our aim is to review the frequency of pneumococcal urinary antigen testing in the paediatric population over the last two years at UHL. We are assessing the relationship between a positive result and other markers of inflammation (WBC, Neutrophilia, Elevated CRP, Elevated Platelet count, Decreased serum albumin), the presence of consolidation on Chest X-Ray, vital signs at presentation in ED, first line antibiotic therapy prescribed, need for second line antibiotics and the presence of associated complications. Specifically, we endeavour to determine if a positive result in children and adolescent patients relates to a clinical outcome consistent with CAP.

Methods To search for all patients 16 years of age and under who had a positive result using the iLab software. iLab will also be used to assess other markers of inflammation, in the same patient cohort, at time of admission. Corresponding chest radiograph images and reports will be accessed via the NIMS radiology software. Vital signs at time of presentation will be assessed using the ‘Therefore’ software. Information regarding antibiotic treatment and any complications can be accessed using the hospital’s E-discharge summary system.

Results There were X paediatric patients who had their pneumococcal urinary antigen protein tested in UHL from January 2017 to December 2018 inclusive, X of which tested positive. Of the positively resulted cohort, X had evidence of consolidation on CXR, X had corresponding markers of inflammation at ED. X% of patients required antibiotic therapy and a further X% required second line antibiotic therapy. X patients had clinical features of acute infection at presentation and X amount of patients had associated complications.

Conclusion The results of this review indicate a correlation between a positive result and clinical presentation of CAP. This may well support the use of the pneumococcal urinary antigen protein assay as part of the work up for paediatric patients presenting with symptoms concerning for CAP.

A RARE CASE OF CONGENITAL LOBAR OVERINFLATION

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Background AF was born by normal vaginal delivery at 38+4 weeks gestation. A normal antenatal scan was performed at 22 weeks. Septic workup was performed and antibiotics commenced due to PROM and GBS carriage in the mother.

Clinical course and imaging She was admitted to NICU with tachypnoea and increased work of breathing at three hours of age. Ambient incubator oxygen up to 33% was commenced to maintain O₂ saturations above 94%. The initial working diagnosis was of TTN. Initial chest x-ray showed a left lower lobe opacity and left pleural effusion. Oxygen was weaned and discontinued. Repeat imaging on day 3 showed left retrocardiac density and left lower lobe segmental atelectasis. The left upper lobe and lingula demonstrated hyperinflation. A decision was made to treat with IV antibiotics for 5 days for a suspected congenital pneumonia.

Imaging was repeated on day 4 due to deterioration in clinical condition with increasing tachypnoea and a further requirement for oxygen. Hi-flow oxygen was commenced, with FiO₂ of 35%. There was a further increase in hyperlucency of left upper lobe with contralateral midline shift and left lower lobe collapse. A lateral x-ray confirmed that hyperlucency was due to overexpansion and suggestive of congenital lobar overinflation (CLO) rather than pneumothorax.

Management High-frequency oxygen was discontinued and she remained on ambient O₂ and was nursed right side up. She remained in a stable condition until transfer to a tertiary hospital where CT thorax confirmed the diagnosis. She awaits pulmonary lobectomy.

Congenital lobar overinflation CLO is a rare disorder characterised by hyperinflation of one or more pulmonary lobes. It has a prevalence of 1 in 20,000 to 1 in 30,000. It most commonly affects the left upper lobe. A narrow bronchus causes collapse and air trapping during expiration. Cases can be diagnosed antenatally during foetal ultrasound. Although 50% of cases appear in the newborn period, symptoms of tachypnoea can develop into childhood. Chest x-ray and CT are diagnostic in full-term, non-ventilated babies. X-ray typically shows increased density in the affected lobe initially, transitioning to hyperlucency as the affected lobe overinflates. The CT confirms the lobar overinflation, absence of bullae etc, and evaluates for the possibility of an aberrant mediastinal vessel as a potential cause. Lobectomy of affected lobe is a widely accepted treatment.

Conclusion CLO is typically associated with progressive respiratory distress and mediastinal shift.

Although rare, CLO should remain a differential for respiratory distress in a term neonate.