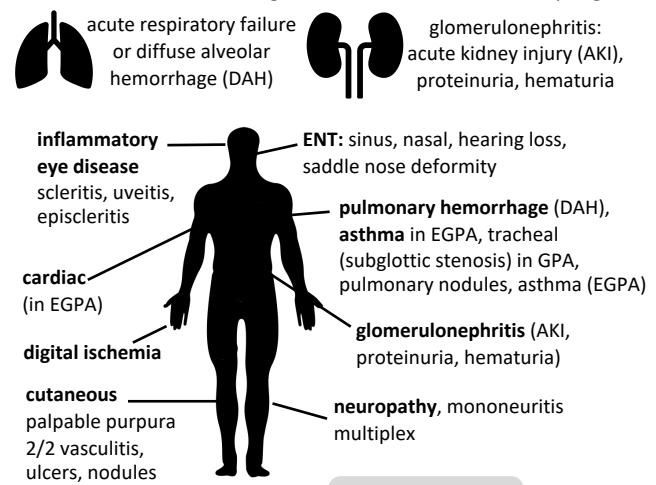


PULMONARY-RENAL SYNDROMES

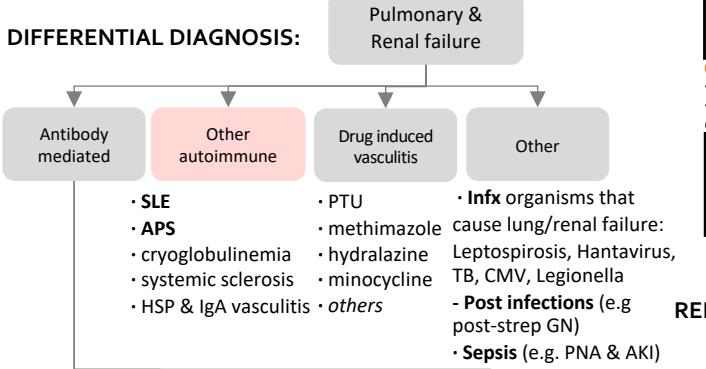
by Nick Mark MD & Mithu Maheswaranathan MD

PRESENTATION:

Pulmonary Renal Syndromes (PRS) are life-threatening diseases with **pulmonary hemorrhage (DAH)** & **renal failure** (glomerulonephritis). Although pulmonary and renal involvement is the defining feature, PRS can affect many organs:



DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS:



Autoimmune ANCA vasculitis (AAV)

- GPA (granulomatous with polyangiitis)
- EGPA (eosinophilic granulomatosis w polyangiitis)
- MPA (microscopic polyangiitis)

PATOPHYSIOLOGY:

- AAV:** ANCA activates primed neutrophils → vessel endothelial damage & inflammation; Granulomatous inflammation (cell-mediated immunity) in some forms of AAV (GPA, EGPA)
- GBM:** Auto-antibodies against $\alpha 3$ chain of type IV collagen, disrupting the basement membrane integrity in lungs and kidney.
- Environmental risk factors: silica exposure (AAV), smoking (GBM)

WORKUP & DIAGNOSIS

Labs:

- BMP (quantify renal injury), Coags (r/o coagulopathy)
- CBC w differential (check eosinophil count for EGPA)
- Auto-antibodies:** ANCA antibody, Anti-GBM antibody
- Urine: UA, Urine protein to creatinine (UPC) ratio
- Cardiac: consider BNP, troponin if concern for EGPA
- ESR and CRP (non-specific, ESR usually low in anti-GBM)

Other tests:

- CT chest to evaluate pulmonary involvement
- Bronchoscopy: confirm DAH, r/o infection
- Echocardiogram for EGPA (\downarrow LVEF, pericardial effusion)
- PFTs (outpatient; increased DLCO after recent DAH)
- EMG/NCS for mononeuritis multiplex/neuropathy

Diagnosis of PRS: biopsy (gold standard) or serologies + symptoms (not-optimal but may be necessary)

AUTO-ANTIBODIES:

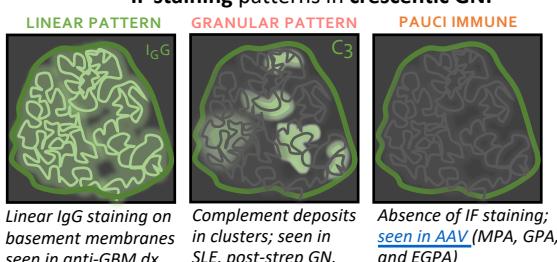
- MPA → usually p-ANCA
- GPA → usually c-ANCA
- EGPA → ANCA in 40-50%
- Goodpasture's → anti-GBM
- Anti-BM

| ANCA Associated Vasculitis (AAV) | | | | Anti BM |
|--|---|-----|------|---------|
| | MPA | GPA | EGPA | |
| P-ANCA (MPO) | 65% | 15% | 45% | 20% |
| C-ANCA (PR3) | 15% | 85% | 5% | 10% |
| X-ANCA (elastase, cathepsin, lysozyme, others) | Perinuclear pattern (but not MPO) Seen with medications: Levamisole/cocaine, hydralazine ANCA also seen in many diseases: SLE, RA, PSC, PBC, AIH, IBD (UC > CD) | | | |

RENAL FINDINGS:

U/A: microscopic or gross hematuria, RBC casts, low grade proteinuria

Path: rapidly progressive (crescentic) glomerulonephritis (fibrinoid necrosis, hypercellular glomeruli, & cellular crescents)
IF staining patterns in crescentic GN:



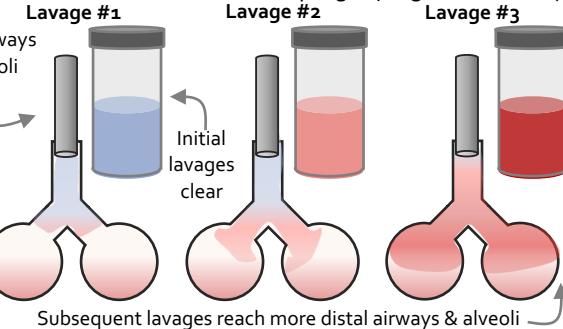
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PULMONARY FINDINGS:

- AAV or Goodpasture's cause **pulmonary capillaritis** leading to diffuse alveolar hemorrhage (DAH)
- Diffuse ground glass or consolidative opacities with sparing or the lung periphery is typically seen on chest CT.
- BAL reveals increasing blood return in serial lavages and >20% hemosiderin laden macrophages (diagnostic of DAH)



- Surgical lung biopsy** (not always required) may reveal:
 - linear IgG staining along BM (anti-GBM)
 - granular immune complex deposition (SLE & rheum dx)
 - pauci immune (no Ig, immune complex) with neutrophil infiltration of vessels (GPA) or eosinophils (EGPA).

OTHER FINDINGS:

Skin lesions: palpable purpura, petechiae, ulcerations, & occasionally nodules. Nasal or sinus mucosa often involved in EGPA. Biopsy of skin or nasal mucosa can reveal vasculitis, such as leukocytoclastic vasculitis of skin

APPROACH: Initial tx focused on remission-induction
Later tx focused on maintenance.

