

Continuing Medical Education

CME MCQ – 8.

Focus on Churg-Strauss syndrome

Churg-Strauss syndrome (CSS) is a multisystem vasculitis that occurs in patients with asthma and eosinophilia. Dermatologic manifestations occur in 40% to 70% of CSS patients.

1. Which of the following lesions are the most common in CSS:
- A. Subcutaneous nodules
 - B. Palpable purpura
 - C. Vesicles and bullae
 - D. Urticaria and livedo reticularis

2. CSS is an ANCA associated vasculitis. Each of the following statements regarding laboratory findings is true except:

- A. ANCA testing is positive in 60% to 70% of patients
- B. Eosinophilia (>10%)
- C. 60% of patients have positive C-ANCA (with anti-PR3 specificity)
- D. ANCA levels correlate with disease activity

3. Each of the following distinguishes CSS from Wegener's granulomatosis (WG) except:

- A. Eosinophilia
- B. Myocardial involvement
- C. Long history of asthma
- D. High incidence of anti-MPO antibodies
- E. Granulomatous inflammation

3. E: Unlike WG, granulomatous inflammation of the myocardium is common and is the leading cause of mortality.

2. C: Only 10 to 15 % of CSS patients have positive C-ANCA. Laboratory findings are similar to those of Wegener's granulomatosis except for marked eosinophilia. ANCA testing is positive in 60% or more, with most patients showing anti-myeloperoxidase antibodies (MPO).

are also seen in patients with CSS. They can be differentiated from those in WG by the presence of eosinophils and pink (rather than blue) necrobiosis.

1. A: Palpable purpura is seen in nearly half of all patients. Subcutaneous nodules are found in 30% of patients, usually located on the scalp or limbs. Urticaria and livedo reticularis are seen more rarely. The papulonecrotic lesions described in Wegener's granulomatosis (WG)

Recommended answers (based on David F. Fiorentino: Cutaneous vasculitis, J Am Acad Dermatol 2003;48:311-340):