A CASE OF IgG4-RELATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE MANIFESTING AS RECURRENT NECROTIZING PNEUMONIA
Ramier Lehne DO, Duc Ho DO, Larry M. Jankelowitz MBCHB
Department of Internal Medicine, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL

Introduction:
IgG4-related disease is a newly recognized fibroinflammatory disorder characterized by diffuse lymphoplasmacytic infiltration and IgG4+ plasma cells. Presentation relies on the primary organ affected. Pulmonary disease can be especially difficult to characterize, as its course may mimic various lung pathologies.

Case Presentation:
33-year old female with PMH of recent Group B Streptococcal bacteremia with aortic valve endocarditis was admitted for severe aortic insufficiency, necessitating aortic valve replacement.

Her course was complicated by acute hypoxic respiratory failure requiring ventilatory support followed by multiple readmissions for right-sided necrotizing pneumonia treated with prolonged courses of antibiotics.

Patient was ultimately re-admitted for left sided chest pain and hypoxia. Initial workup showed elevated inflammatory markers and CT chest with right-sided, multifocal pneumonia and cavitations. Microbiology and immunologic studies were unremarkable.

The patient was again treated empirically with antibiotics but did not improve after 1 month so underwent bronchoalveolar lavage and right lung FNA- results were consistent with IgG4-related ILD.

Treatment was initiated with prednisone 0.6 mg/kg/day and slowly tapered.

Conclusions:
IgG4-related disease encompasses a spectrum of fibroinflammatory disorders that can affect multiple organ systems, including the lungs.

Given the evolving nature of IgG4-related ILD, diagnosis can be especially difficult given the multitude of presentations mimicking other infectious, neoplastic, and inflammatory disease processes.

This case highlights the importance of maintaining a broad differential, especially in the setting of ineffective treatments.

Larger studies could further understanding of this complex disease.

References:

Figure 1. Initial CT Chest demonstrating extensive multifocal pneumonia throughout the right lung with areas of superimposed cavitation/necrosis.

Figure 2. Right Lung FNA H&E stain with interstitial fibrosis, inflammatory lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate.

Figure 3. Membrane staining of plasma cells from right lung FNA positive for paneratin CAM 5.2, CD138, and IgG4.

Figure 4. Comparison of initial chest X-ray with repeat chest x-ray post therapy demonstrating resolution of pulmonary edema and infiltrates.