

Rheumatic Fever & Rheumatic Heart Disease



If a person is affected by group A β hemolytic streptococcus - causing streptococcal tonsillitis / pharyngitis...

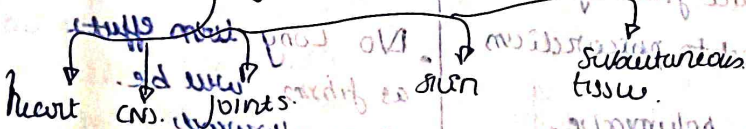
↓
macrophages present (APC) & Ab are formed.

↓
due to molecular mimicry in (2%) the Ab cross react with our own antigens.

↓
in 98% ... Ab are highly specific, so they only act on streptococcus.

↓
but in 2-3% individuals having genetic predisposition.

↓
Ab cross react with Ag (cytoproteins of our own) mainly.



- Ab take 2-6 week to develop.
- So post group A β hemolytic streptococcal infection - 2-6 weeks later.
- there will be cross reaction & inflammation.

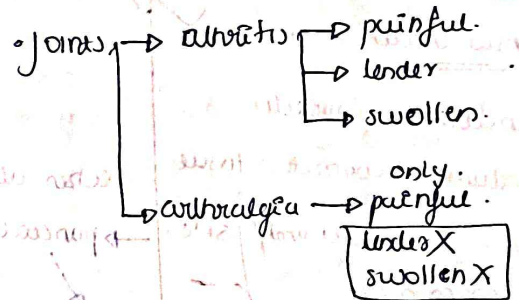
Acute Rheumatic fever.

→ multisystem affected - immune mediated (Ab), nonsuppurative (no pus) inflammatory condition.

• CNS - Basal ganglia affected.

↓
Sydenham's chorea. (F3M) - rare, but diagnostic

Chorea - involuntary purposeless jerky movement.



• myosulatory poly arthritis.

↓
diff joints have are affected one after other.

↓
magic drug - Aspirin.

these are completely reversible after fever is over.

But not in case of \heartsuit

> after fever, joints & chorea will be fine.

• no long term complications in joints.

Skin

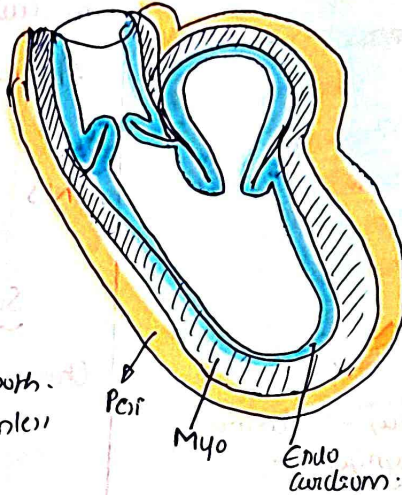
- rapidly developing lesions... that get healed in centre first
- ↓
- Erythema marginatum (painless).
- Common - trunk less - hands & feet
- No long term effect!
- Heals completely.

Subcutaneous tissue

- subcutaneous nodules.
- nodules of connective tissue.
- Extensor surfaces of limb/site bony prominences.
- No long term complications

Cardiac problems - Heart

Bad ☹



- When all tissues are involved → pericarditis.
- ↓
- R. Endocarditis + myocarditis + pericarditis.
- Others - 1/2 own

Rheumatic pericarditis

- due to uteruli...
- ↑ endothelial gaps
- leakage of large molecular proteins like fibrinogen from blood to pericardium
- fibrinogen polymerise.
- ↓
- fibrin strands (thick) eosinophilic
- ↓
- fibrous pericarditis.
- It is a feature of any immune mediated pericarditis

→ fibrin deposits in pericardial sac.

↓
Bread & butter pericarditis / fibrous pericarditis.

• It causes pericardial chest pain.

• which is crural chest pain, sharp, well localized

AND!
relieved on leaning forward.

↓
should know how to differentiate from ischemic pain.

↓
dull, poorly localized, radiating, not relieved on leaning forward.

• pericardial rub on auscultation

↓
scratchy sound due to pericardial layer rubbing together.

• No long term effects as fibrin will be gone afterwards and completely.

myocardium

• Classical immune mediated lesions that are found in myocardium are called

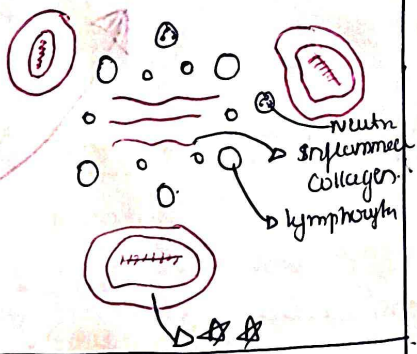
Aschoff bodies

Very small, pinhead lesions due to immune mediated granuloma.

especially around perivascular connective tissue.

{ around blood vessel }
{ connective tissue of pericardium }

Aschoff bodies - granuloma



activated plump macrophages with prominent nuclei & ribbon shaped clefts nuclei are called

Antibodies cells / Catepillar cells.

• pathognomonic.

Aschoff body - granuloma.

• Antibody cell.

↓
fuse → Aschoff giant cell.

myocarditis

• most serious complication during acute phase.

• myocardium become loose & flabby

↓
poor contraction

↓
right & left ventricular failure. - cardiac failure.

• No long term complications & But very serious / most serious complication during acute phase.

• If a child dies during acute rheumatic fever, the most common cause is Rheumatic myocarditis

Rheumatic Endocarditis

• 2 types of lesions

↓
during fever

↓
in between fevers.

• during ARF → immune system mainly attacks → valvular connective tissue.

↓
Rheumatic valvulitis

• the valves are already inflamed ...

• one of the patient has tachycardia due to fever ... mild arrhythmias.

• due to inflammation of ... constant hitting ...

erosions will form @ line of closure of valves.

↓
fibrin, platelet deposit

↓
Rheumatic vegetation.

↓
multiple small, vegetations along line of closure - sterile, firmly held.

↓
don't embolise.

↓
unlike mitral E.

get fever ...

they start to heal ... platelet produce - PDGF.

• lots of fibroblast are there & they lay down collagen.

↓
vegetations become sticks

↓
edges fuse.

↓
Cusps develop adhesions.

After fever is over,
vegetation heal by fibrosis &
adhesion
↓
distortion of valve.

Long term Complications

acute rheumatic heart
disease { what's seen during
a R fever }
ie, pericarditis, myocarditis.

chronic RHD -> valve problem.
what's seen btw fever episodes.

ie, endocarditis ✓
narrowing of myo as they
heal completely after fever.



Monckeberg

not dangerous at
all.

media

Calcification

medium sized
arteries -
especially radial, ulnar etc -
{ eg, muscular arteries

↓
there is no threat actually,
due to calcification we
can easily palpate the
radial vessels and all.

later even after occluding
brachial artery, we can
still feel the radial artery.
due to calcification of
vessel wall.

• It is not a dangerous
condition as it never
encroaches on intima &
there is no lumen

occlusion

classical example
Elastic arteries ->
Aortic
Carotid
Ulnar artery.

atherosclerosis

very very dangerous.

Intima.

fibro fatty plaque.

• large sized arteries,
aortic, popliteal etc.

↓
{ Elastic arteries }

