

Letters to the Editor

[The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by the correspondents]

JIMA — September, 2021

SIR — This study from the eastern part of India brings to notice a very important issue about the management of Crescentic Glomerulonephritis. It has mainly concentrated on clinical spectrum and outcome in non Lupus patients of crescentic glomerulonephritis. We all know that it is an age old convention of treating Lupus Glomerulonephritis with cyclophosphamide. Now the EUVAS protocol is venturing in non Lupus territory.

Also an important observation about the clinical spectrum has been put forward that a high degree of suspicion of RPGN should be there in all patients requiring dialysis when the disease duration is less than 3 months.

In this eastern part of India, Pauci immune Glomerulonephritis was found to be predominating as an etiology of non Lupus RPGN. It was found that worse outcomes were reported in case of IgA nephropathy and anti-GBM who developed RPGN.

In this study, the patients received IV Cyclophosphamide and it is heartening to know that 37.14% of the patient maintained remission either partial or complete. However I would like to share some concerns regarding this mode of therapy. Authors have mentioned that about 53% of total number of deaths was due to septicemia during the course of treatment. so how safe is cyclophosphamide in this scenario is a query.

Also because the number of anti-GBM disease (2) and IgA nephropathy (1) are so limited, outcome on these subsets of patients cannot be assessed and needs more evaluation.

The use of tunneled venous catheter is a very good option to prevent septicemia, though cost and poor infrastructure in the periphery may be an impediment.

Some studies are coming up where oral cyclophosphamide has been used and found to be non inferior, this may be a subject of future research.

3rd year Residents,
Department of General Medicine,
IPGME&R and SSKM Hospital,
Kolkata 700020

Himadri Roy
Barun Behari Das

Russian invasion of Ukraine and it's effect on Public Health

SIR — THE invasion of Ukraine by the Russians which started on the 24th February, 2022 has affected the public health of both the countries terribly with loss of multiple lives.

The healthcare facility of Ukraine has been affected catastrophically with this war specifically after what it has been through during the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years. The depletion of public finances has further added oil to the fire of this crisis situation.

With an increase in casualties from the war, the demand of health care has risen steeply. However, the ability to meet these needs has been severely compromised due to the reckless destruction of the infrastructure, shortage of all medical supplies- even oxygen and displacement of healthcare workers. The healthcare workers are being forced to shift their vital works underground. Their maternity and paediatric wards have been shifted into the underground bomb shelters for safety.

The healthcare facilities of the nearby countries who are helping the refugees, like Poland, are also suffering as a result of this war. Not only has there been an increase in number of casualties due to the war but an increase in COVID-19 and other infectious disease like HIV, tuberculosis, enteric fever among the refugees- who are fleeing the country in over-crowded unsanitary conditions. These unwell refugees are in dire need of medical attention from the nearby countries who are themselves striving to survive from crumbling healthcare facilities in the post COVID era.

Apart from physical health, the mental health of the survivors and the refugees has also been gravely affected by the Russian invasion. Families have been torn apart from their roots with no hopes of meeting again.

I, much like the rest of the world, wish for this war to come to an end with the retreat of the Russian forces in order to avoid any further casualties and loss of lives of civilians.

MBBS, MD (General Medicine)
Senior Resident, Department of General Medicine,
RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata 700004

Tanuka Mandal