

# PATHOLOGY OF HEMATOLYMPHOID SYSTEM NON-NEOPLASTIC WBC DISORDERS



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# WHITE BLOOD CELL DISORDERS

- Disorders include deficiency (leukopenia) and proliferation
- Leukocytosis: increased number of WBC in peripheral blood (any cause). If benign, it is called reactive leukocytosis
- Leukemia: increased number of WBC in peripheral blood secondary to neoplastic disease
- Leukocytosis is more common than leukopenia
- Reactive leukocytosis is more common than leukemia

reactive, in response to a primary disease (infection)  
neoplastic, leukemia



reduction in no. of granulocytes

if severe,

# NEUTROPENIA / AGRANULOCYTOSIS

no mostly neutrophils

Patients become susceptible to infections (namely bacterial and fungal)

If neutrophil count drops below 500 cells/uL → spontaneous infection by microflora

higher risk for infections

Decreased production: aplastic anemia, myelophthistic anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, advanced megaloblastic anemia, chemotherapy, drugs (anti-epileptic, anti-hyperthyroidism)

suppress granulopoiesis

Increased destruction: immune mediated, splenomegaly, overwhelming bacterial, fungal or rickettsial infections

causing marrow hypercellularity

SLE, ABs against WBCs

leads to sequestration and rapid removal of neutrophils

increased peripheral utilization

Pathogenesis



Commonest → (شائع)

# REACTIVE LEUKOCYTOSIS

inflammatory states, microbial or non-microbial

- **Neutrophilia:** acute bacterial (pyogenic) infections, inflammation (necrosis) → sterile → MI, burns
- **Lymphocytosis:** infectious mononucleosis, EBV, viral infections, Bordetella pertussis infection, chronic infections (TB, brucellosis)
- **Monocytosis:** non-specific, in acute and chronic (more common) TB, malaria, autoimmune, inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's)
- **Eosinophilia:** specific asthma, allergic diseases, drug sensitivity, parasitic infections (worms, helminths), Hodgkin lymphoma
- **Basophilia:** rare, seen in myeloproliferative neoplasms (CMML +)

accompanies monocytosis  
in chronic immunologic  
stimulation like  
TB and Brucellosis

Polythemia vera



Benign, normal response to an antigen

# REACTIVE LYMPHADENITIS

- Antigenic stimulation in lymph nodes
- Causes lymph node enlargement (lymphadenopathy)
- Can be localized or generalized

Any immune response  
against foreign antigens

Infections or non-microbial  
inflammatory stimuli

palpable

neck, axilla...



# ACUTE NON-SPECIFIC LYMPHADENITIS

gradual

by stretching of nerves around it / chronic is painless

either a group of nodes draining a specific region,  
or generalized systemic infections.

- Swollen, enlarged and painful lymph nodes
- Overlying skin is red and may develop a sinus tract
- The germinal centers in the lymph node are enlarged, infiltrated by neutrophils. With severe infection, liquefactive necrosis develop and may enlarge to form an abscess.

tract of inflammatory cells from LNs to skin

digestion of cellular structures by neutrophilic enzymes

Inflamed nodes in acute nonspecific lymphadenitis are swollen, gray-red, and engorged. Histologically, there are **large germinal centers** containing numerous mitotic figures. When the cause is a pyogenic organism, a neutrophilic infiltrate is seen around the follicles and within the lymphoid sinuses. With severe infections, the centers of follicles can undergo necrosis, leading to the formation of an abscess.

pus

collection of Pus



# CAT-SCRATCH DISEASE

- **Bartonella henselae** *Bacterium, Extracellular*
- Transmitted from cats (bite, scratch, infected saliva)
- Most commonly in children
- Causes acute lymphadenitis in neck/axilla area *Painful*
- Symptoms appear after two weeks of infection *incubation period*
- Bacteria causes liquefactive necrosis and necrotizing granulomas in lymph nodes *like in TB*
- Mostly self-limited in 2-4 months, rarely can disseminate into visceral organs

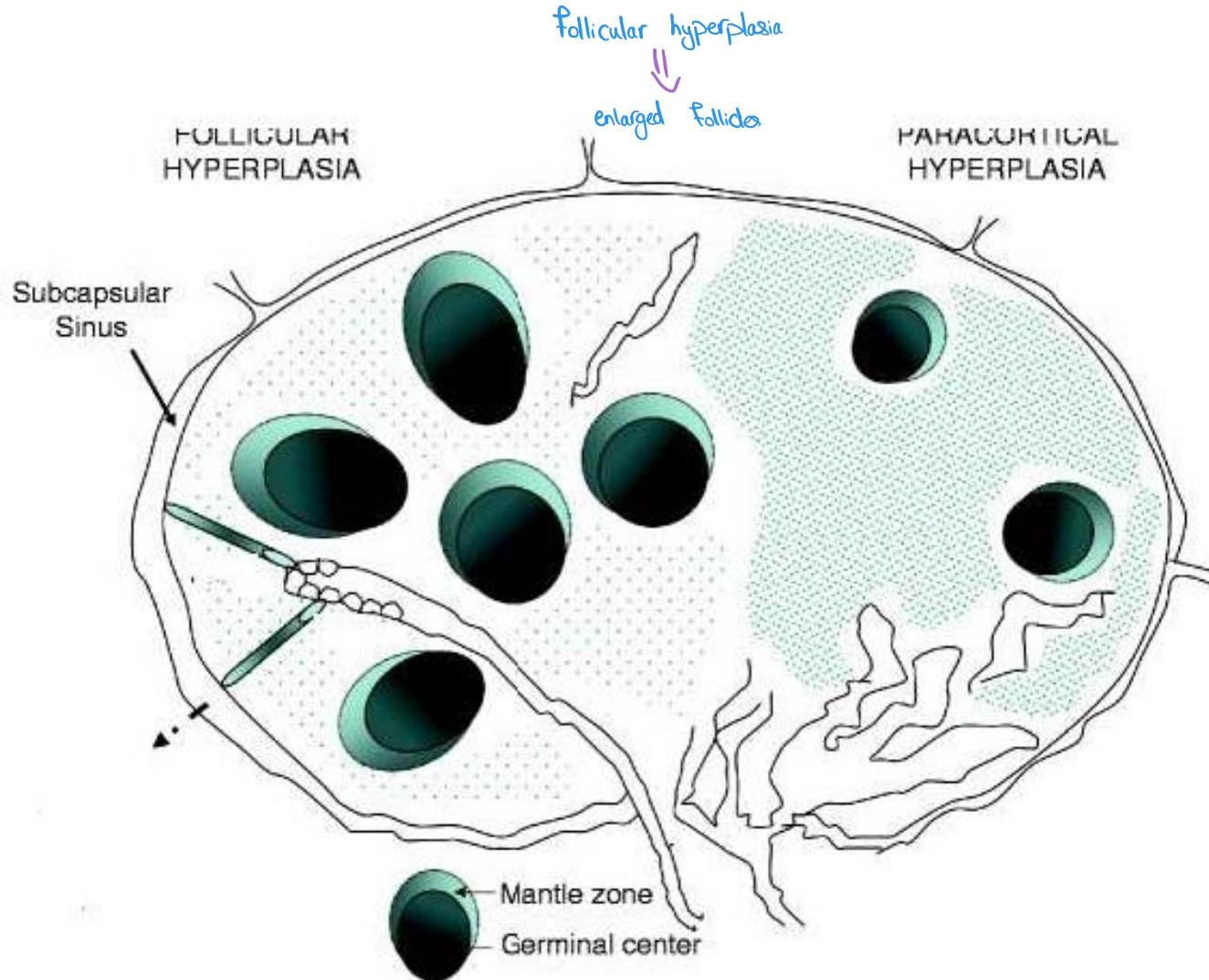


# CHRONIC NON-SPECIFIC LYMPHADENITIS

- Chronic <sup>benign</sup> enlargement of lymph node, painless
- **Follicular hyperplasia**: chronic proliferation of B-lymphocytes, seen in rheumatologic diseases, toxoplasmosis and HIV → infect T cells, but proliferation of B cells  
→ creating germinal centers
- **Paracortical hyperplasia**: proliferation of T-lymphocytes, seen in viral infections (example EBV), after vaccination and drug reaction → in the paracortex, effacing the B cells follicles  
→ in blood: eosinophilia  
→ LN: T cell proliferation
- **Sinus histiocytosis**: proliferation of macrophages in lymph node sinuses, seen in adjacent cancer  
→ lymph nodes draining cancer  
→ an immune response to tumor antigens  
→ not a metastasis







Phagocytosis of RBCs  $\rightarrow$  Anemia

Inflammation (proliferation of lymphocytes and histiocytes)

# HEMOPHAGOCYTIC LYMPHOHISTIOCYTOSIS

- HLH is uncommon disease *life threatening*
- Viral infection or other inflammatory agents activate macrophages (histiocytes) throughout body to engulf normal blood cells and their precursors in bone marrow
- Patients have defective genes related to the function of cytotoxic T-cells and natural killer cells, thus they are engaged with their target (virus-infected cells) for a long period and release excess interferon- $\gamma$  that activates macrophages *severely*
- Activated macrophages release TNF and IL-6 that causes systemic symptoms of inflammation (systemic inflammatory response syndrome "SIRS") *fever, tachypnea, tachycardia, hypotension and leukocytosis*



# HLH-TYPES

- 1) Infants and young children *becomes less efficient → longer engagement with infected cells*
- Homozygous defects in gene PRF1 that encodes perforin
- An essential enzyme in cytotoxic T-lymphocytes and natural killer cells



# HLH-TYPES

- 2) Adolescents and adults
- X-linked lymphoproliferative disorder (males)
- Defective Signaling lymphocyte activation molecule (SLAM)-associated protein *↗ must be exposed to EBV to develop HLH*
- Inefficient killing of EBV-infected B-lymphocyte



# HLH-TYPES

*without an infection*

- 3) May be associated with systemic inflammatory disorders such as rheumatologic diseases
- Patients have heterozygous genetic defects in genes required for cytotoxic T-cells



# HLH-TYPES

*not an infection*

- 4) T-cell lymphomas
- Malignant T-cells produce aberrant cytokines leading to dysregulation of normal cytotoxic T-cells



# SYMPTOMS

- Fever, splenomegaly and pancytopenia
- High ferritin <sup>inflammatory marker</sup>
- High triglyceridemia
- High serum IL-2
- Low level of blood cytotoxic T-cells and natural killer cells
- BM: numerous macrophages engulfing RBCs, platelets and granulocytes

