

Patient with Pyrexia of Unknown Origin (PUO) – Melioidosis with haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

Key words

Melioidosis, haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, pyrexia of unknown origin

Abstract

This is a case of Melioidosis complicated with haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis. This patient who has been diagnosed with diabetes mellitus for 5 months presented with pyrexia of unknown origin.

Because of his fever pattern, sepsis due to abscess formation was suspected. After several investigations he was diagnosed to have multiple intraabdominal abscesses. Blood culture and serology tests confirmed the diagnosis of melioidosis. Due to persistent cytopenia and splenomegaly we proceeded with further investigations. His bone marrow biopsy showed that increased histiocytic activity could be reactive to the existing infection, but early stages of haemophagocytic syndrome cannot be ruled out. His serum ferritin and triglyceride levels were persistently significantly elevated. According to the HLH diagnostic criteria he was diagnosed to have haemophagocytic syndrome.

In this case we report the current diagnostic tendencies in investigating, evaluating and treating Melioidosis associated with haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis and also discussed the Sri Lankan experience on how to approach and treat such a patient.