

肺炎支原体感染在成人斯蒂尔病发病中的作用

王澳华^{1,2}, 胡松¹, 段玉婷^{1,2}, 廖桢宇^{1,2}, 毛拥军^{1*}

¹青岛大学附属医院老年医学科, 山东 青岛

²青岛大学青岛医学院, 山东 青岛

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摘要

成人斯蒂尔病(Adult-onset Still's Disease, AOSD)是一种罕见的全身性的自身炎症性疾病, 常累及全身多器官系统, 表现出非特异性的症状和体征。AOSD非特异性的临床表现使其诊断往往面临着重大挑战。感染是AOSD的主要诱因, 并且与其临床特征高度重叠, 比如发热、白细胞和炎症因子的升高, 因而易导致AOSD的误诊或漏诊。许多病原体均可诱发AOSD起病, 但目前关于肺炎支原体感染继而发生AOSD的病例报告较为罕见。我们报告了一例最初诊断为单纯肺炎支原体相关上呼吸道感染的AOSD病例。一名21岁的年轻女性, 主要表现为反复高热, 同时伴有关节疼痛、皮疹及浅表淋巴结肿大, 在排除了感染性疾病、恶性肿瘤及其他自身免疫性疾病后, 根据Yamaguchi标准最终确诊为AOSD。应用激素治疗后, 患者的病情明显好转, 随访记录显示病情控制稳定。此外, 我们就AOSD的临床特征及诊疗原则进行了详细的讨论及文献综述, 重点阐明了肺炎支原体感染与AOSD发病之间的内在联系, 并进一步揭示了两者在发病机制中的密切关联。

关键词

成人斯蒂尔病(AOSD), 肺炎支原体, 炎症, 免疫学, 诊断

The Role of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Infection in the Pathogenesis of Adult-Onset Still's Disease

Aohua Wang^{1,2}, Song Hu¹, Yuting Duan^{1,2}, Zhenyu Liao^{1,2}, Yongjun Mao^{1*}

¹Department of Geriatric Medicine, The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao Shandong

²Qingdao Medical College of Qingdao University, Qingdao Shandong

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*通讯作者。

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Abstract

Adult-onset Still's Disease (AOSD) is a rare systemic inflammatory disease, which often accumulates multiple organ systems and shows nonspecific symptoms and signs. The nonspecific clinical manifestations of AOSD make its diagnosis often face great challenges. Infection is the main inducement of AOSD, and it highly overlaps with its clinical features, such as fever, increase of white blood cells and inflammatory factors, which easily leads to misdiagnosis or missed diagnosis of AOSD. Many pathogens can induce the onset of AOSD, but at present, there are few cases of AOSD caused by *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection. We report a case of AOSD initially diagnosed as simple *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* associated with upper respiratory tract infection. A 21-year-old young woman with recurrent high fever, joint pain, rash and superficial lymphadenopathy was finally diagnosed as AOSD according to Yamaguchi criteria after excluding infectious diseases, malignant tumors and other autoimmune diseases. After hormone therapy, the patient's condition improved obviously, and the follow-up records showed that the condition was stable. In addition, we discussed the clinical characteristics and principles of diagnosis and treatment of AOSD in detail and reviewed the literature, focusing on the internal relationship between *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection and the pathogenesis of AOSD, and further revealed the close relationship between them in the pathogenesis.

Keywords

Adult-Onset Still's Disease (AOSD), *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, Inflammation, Immunology, Diagnosis

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1. 引言

成人斯蒂尔病(Adult-onset Still's Disease, AOSD)是一种罕见的自身炎症性疾病,往往在排除其他相似疾病后结合其非特异性的临床特征确诊[1] [2]。感染作为 AOSD 的主要诱发因素,在临床表现上又与 AOSD 极为相似,因此 AOSD 患者发病初期容易被误诊为单纯的感染性疾病,进而延误其系统性治疗并显著增加严重并发症的发生风险,如巨噬细胞活化综合征(macrophage activation syndrome, MAS) [3]。研究表明,肺炎支原体感染引发的炎症和免疫反应与 AOSD 的现有发病机制之间在多个维度存在交叉[4] [5]。然而,截至目前,肺炎支原体感染患者合并 AOSD 发病的报道很少。肺炎支原体作为 AOSD 的触发因素参与其发病的具体机制尚未完全明确。

在此报告中,我们介绍了一例合并肺炎支原体感染的 AOSD 患者,入院时根据其临床表现及检验结果,考虑诊断为肺炎支原体相关的上呼吸道感染,期间经历了无效的抗感染治疗并进一步完善了全面的辅助检查,结合淋巴结活检结果及血清学炎症指标变化,最终诊断为 AOSD。此病例中肺炎支原体感染与 AOSD 起病之间密切的时间关系以及炎症指标趋势的演变揭示了肺炎支原体在 AOSD 发病中的重要作用,同时该病例也对临床医生诊断不明原因的发热起到一定的警醒作用。

2. 病例报道

患者女, 21 岁, 因“反复发热 1 月余”于 2023 年 9 月 28 日入院。1 月余前, 患者无明显诱因出现

发热, 体温最高达 40.0℃, 伴干咳、咽痛, 自觉全身多关节、肌肉疼痛, 自服“阿奇霉素”数天后上述症状无明显改善, 于当地医院就诊, 辅助检查结果提示全血白细胞和 C 反应蛋白(C-reactive protein, CRP)升高, 肺炎支原体 IgM 抗体阳性, 且全身多个浅表淋巴结明显肿大, 当地医院考虑肺炎支原体感染, 予以静脉应用抗生素治疗(具体药物不详), 治疗 3 天后患者仍反复高热, 遂至我院。患者否认传染病和遗传病史, 近期有美国和加拿大旅居史。查体: 颈部、腋窝和腹股沟区可触及肿大的浅表淋巴结, 最大的淋巴结有花生米大小, 质地坚硬, 无压痛及粘连, 活动度差, 全身皮肤未见皮疹、瘀点、瘀斑, 肝、脾肋下未及。其余各系统体检无明显阳性体征。

入院后, 患者立即完成了血常规、生化指标和病原学检查, 结果如表 1 所示。结合症状及辅助检查结果, 诊断为肺炎支原体感染, 先后予以莫西沙星注射液、米诺环素片及阿奇霉素注射液抗感染治疗, 积极抗感染 9 天后患者体温降至正常, 复查炎性指标 CRP、降钙素原(Procalcitonin, PCT)显著下降。在预备出院时, 患者再次高热, 且其颈部和前胸部新发红褐色斑块状皮疹, 质地粗糙, 伴局部皮肤增厚及瘙痒。此时复查的病原学检查无提示意义。反复高热、淋巴结肿大以及无效的抗感染治疗, 这些特征提示感染可能并非患者发热的根本原因, 我们不得不把目光转向自身免疫性疾病及恶性肿瘤上。随后, 患者完善了 PET-CT, 结果提示淋巴瘤或坏死性淋巴结等增殖性淋巴结疾病可能性大, 核医学科医生建议选取肿大淋巴结进行活检。后续查房过程中, 通过再次追问患者既往病史, 我们捕捉到一个关键信息——患者近年来查体时发现血清铁蛋白不明原因显著升高。随后, 进一步的化验结果提示患者血液中白细胞介素 6(interleukin 6, IL-6)及铁蛋白水平明显升高, 铁蛋白水平甚至达到了正常上限的 40 倍左右。此外, 腋窝淋巴结活检结果提示 AOSD 可能性大。根据 Yamaguchi 标准, 患者确诊为 AOSD, 开始静脉应用米乐松 20 mg, 2 次/天。自激素治疗的第二天起, 患者未再发热, 且皮疹完全消散, 治疗 6 天后, 复查的 IL-6 及铁蛋白水平较前明显下降, 疗效显著。结合风湿免疫科的会诊意见, 患者出院后继续口服甲泼尼龙片 20 mg, 2 次/天。患者最新的随访记录显示病情控制理想, 各项炎性指标均正常。患者住院及随访期间体温及铁蛋白的变化如图 1 所示。

Table 1. Important laboratory results of patients after admission

表 1. 患者入院后的重要化验结果

项目	结果	参考范围
白细胞	12.44*10 ⁹ /L	(3.5~9.5)*10 ⁹ /L
中性粒细胞百分率	81.8%	40%~75%
淋巴细胞百分率	12.5%	20%~50%
单核细胞百分率	4.9%	3%~10%
血红蛋白	118 g/L	(115~150) g/L
CRP	81.21 mg/L	(0~5) mg/L
降钙素原	0.143 ng/ml	<0.05 ng/ml
乙肝表面抗原定量	0 IU/ml	<0.05 IU/ml
丙肝抗体 IgG	0.11 S/CO	<1.00 S/CO
梅毒螺旋体抗体	0.09 S/CO	<1.0 S/CO
艾滋病毒抗体 1/2 型	0.07 S/CO	<1 S/CO
白蛋白	33.4 g/L	(40.0~55.0) g/L
谷丙转氨酶	19 U/L	(7~40) U/L

续表

谷草转氨酶	19 U/L	(13~35) U/L
G 试验	阴性	阴性
GM 试验	阴性	阴性
免疫球蛋白 A	4.32 g/L	(1.0~4.2) g/L
免疫球蛋白 G	14.70 g/L	(8.6~17.4) g/L
免疫球蛋白 M	1.91 g/L	(0.5~2.8) g/L
抗环瓜氨酸肽抗体	<8.00 U/ml	(0~17) U/ml
免疫球蛋白 E	768 IU/ml	(0~100) IU/ml
抗 O	298 IU/ml	(0~200) IU/ml
类风湿因子	<9.13 IU/ml	(0~15.9) IU/ml
抗核抗体及其滴度	弱阳性	阴性
红细胞沉降率	83 mm/h	(0~20) mm/h
肺炎支原体抗体(IgM)	阳性(1:80)	阴性
呼吸道合胞病毒抗体	阴性	阴性
腺病毒抗体	阴性	阴性
副流感病毒 1、2 和 3 型抗体	阴性	阴性
嗜肺军团菌血清 1 型抗体	阴性	阴性
肺炎衣原体抗体	阴性	阴性
甲型流感病毒抗体	阴性	阴性
乙型流感病毒抗体	阴性	阴性
Q 热立克次体抗体	阴性	阴性
结核感染 T 细胞检测	阴性	阴性
新型冠状病毒核酸检测	阴性	阴性
EB 病毒 DNA	阴性	阴性
巨细胞病毒 DNA	阴性	阴性

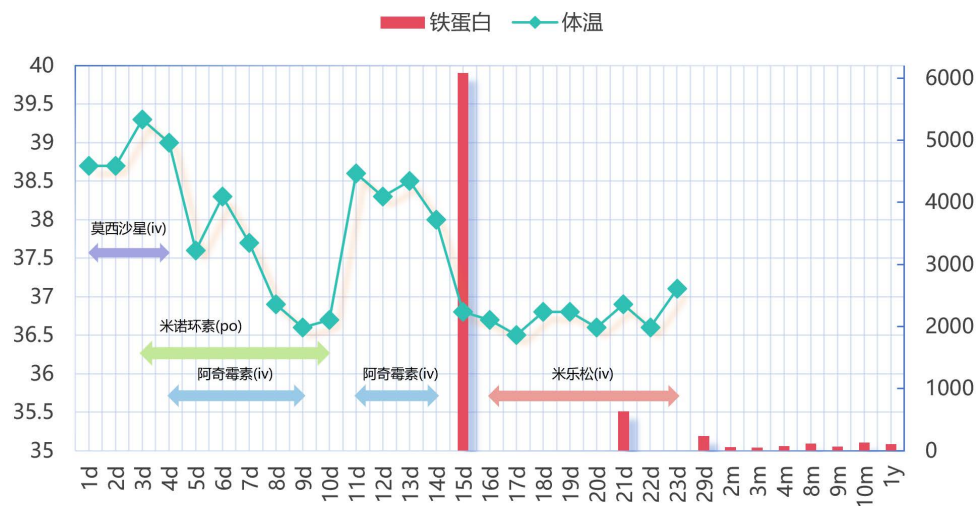


Figure 1. Changes in patient temperature and ferritin, and evolution of main therapeutic drugs
图 1. 患者体温和铁蛋白变化及主要治疗药物演变

3. 方法

我们对合并支原体感染的 AOSD 患者的病例报告进行了综述。我们随机选取了两位研究者应用以下检索式：((Still’s Disease, Adult-Onset) OR (Still’s Disease, Adult Onset) OR (Still’s Disease, Adult Onset) OR (Adult-Onset Still Disease) OR (Adult Onset Still Disease) OR (Adult-Onset Still’s Disease) OR (Adult Onset Still’s Disease) OR (Adult-Onset Stills Disease) OR (Still Disease, Adult-Onset) OR (Still Disease, Adult Onset)) AND (Mycoplasma)，在 PubMed 进行检索并筛选。最终，我们纳入了 3 篇符合主题的文献，见表 2。

Table 2. Clinical characteristics of AOSD patients with combined *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection
表 2. 合并肺炎支原体感染的 AOSD 患者的临床特征

例数	性别	AOSD 发病年龄 (岁)	高热	关节疼痛或关节炎	皮疹	肺部体征	淋巴结肿大	肝或脾肿大	肝功能异常	全血白细胞计数升高	中性粒细胞百分率升高	肺炎支原体抗体 (IgM)	肺炎支原体抗体 (IgG)	白细胞介素 6	铁蛋白升高	肺部影像学改变	淋巴结或皮肤活检	巨噬细胞活化综合征	针对肺炎支原体的抗感染治疗	激素类	DMARDs	生物制剂
Egambaram [6]	男	18	有	有	无	无	有	肝大、脾大	有	有	无	阳性	阳性	未知	未知	左肺下叶实变、少量胸腔积液	未知	无	头孢曲松、阿奇霉素	泼尼松	甲氨蝶呤	无
Carlos [7]	男	17	无	有	有	湿啰音	有	肝大、脾大	有	有	无	阳性 (1:640)	阳性	未知	有	左肺下叶浸润影	淋巴结活检	无	红霉素	泼尼松	无	无
Abhishek [8]	女	28	有	有	有	湿啰音	未知	未知	有	未知	未知	阳性	阳性	未知	未知	双肺浸润影	皮肤活检	有	阿奇霉素	甲强龙	环孢素	阿那白滞素

4. 讨论

AOSD 是一种较为罕见的全身性自身炎症性疾病，其主要临床特征可表现为高热、典型皮疹、关节炎或关节痛、咽痛、肝脾及淋巴结肿大。在检索到的 3 例合并肺炎支原体感染的 AOSD 病例中，均伴随肝功能损伤，而本例患者肝功能正常。此外，上述 3 例患者的胸部影像学结果均显示肺部受累，如肺叶浸润性改变、胸腔积液等，也是 AOSD 累及肺脏的并发症表现[6]-[8]。本例 AOSD 患者虽然同时合并肺炎支原体感染，但 CT 和 PET-CT 均无肺部受累表现，考虑可能与其积极的抗感染治疗和及时的病因治疗有关。AOSD 主要发生于 20~40 岁人群，最新研究指出女性发病率略高于男性。AOSD 临床表现的多样性及非特异性对临床医师及时正确的诊断造成了巨大挑战。Abhishek 等人报告的病例以皮疹为初始症状，起初被误诊为过敏性疾病，应用抗组胺药治疗无效[8]。另外两例患者从首发症状到确诊 AOSD 并行靶向治疗至少经历了 2 周的时间[6] [7]。幸运地是，他们均未发展至 AOSD 严重并发症阶段。基于诊断原则的前提条件——排除性诊断，确诊 AOSD 的过程必然漫长且复杂。目前国际上尚无 AOSD 特异性诊断标准。临床上最常用的是 Yamaguchi 标准[9] (表 3)。

Table 3. Diagnostic criteria for AOSD—Yamaguchi criteria
表 3. AOSD 的诊断标准——Yamaguchi 标准

主要标准	发热 $\geq 39^{\circ}\text{C}$ 并持续 1 周及以上
	关节痛或关节炎持续 2 周及以上
	典型皮疹
	白细胞计数 $\geq 10 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ 且中性粒细胞百分率 $> 80\%$

续表

次要标准	咽痛或咽炎
	淋巴结和/或脾肿大
	肝功能异常
	类风湿因子和抗核抗体阴性
排除标准	感染性疾病
	恶性肿瘤(尤其是淋巴瘤)
	其他自身免疫性疾病
诊断条件	否定排除标准中的疾病后,符合上述标准中的5条及以上,其中至少2条为主要标准,即可诊断为 AOSD

除了临床表现及常见的实验室指标以外, PET-CT 在确诊 AOSD 的过程中也具有重大参考价值。Xian Li 等人通过评估 ^{18}F -FDG 的代谢参数与实验室指标等临床数据的相关性发现 ^{18}F -FDG 有望用于 AOSD 疾病活动性的评估, 并且脾脏 ^{18}F -FDG 摄取情况未来可能应用于预测 AOSD 患者的预后[10]。

在过去的几十年里, 全球报告了多例合并各种病原体感染的 AOSD 病例[11]-[14]。对于存在感染指征的患者而言, AOSD 的诊断过程更加困难。肺炎支原体感染的临床表现及实验室检查指标的变化与 AOSD 患者有许多共同特征, 比如发热、咽痛及铁蛋白水平升高[15]。然而, AOSD 患者循环中铁蛋白的升高往往更为显著, 常高于其他的自身炎症性疾病及感染性疾病[16] [17]。本例患者的血清铁蛋白水平在急性期时高达正常上限的 40 倍。我们检索到的 3 例患者中仅一例提供了铁蛋白升高的临床资料[7]。Fautre 等人开展的一项回顾性研究揭示了循环中铁蛋白和糖化铁蛋白水平在 AOSD 鉴别诊断中的重要价值[18]。近年来, 一项关于 AOSD 患者与重症 COVID-19 患者循环细胞因子和铁蛋白水平的荟萃分析发现活动性 AOSD 患者体内铁蛋白水平显著高于重症 COVID-19 患者[19]。对于持续高热且针对性抗感染治疗无效的患者, 临床医生应当考虑到 AOSD 的可能性, 关注皮疹、淋巴结肿大等体征变化, 尽快完善实验室及影像学检查全面排查与之鉴别诊断的各类疾病。值得注意的是, 即便已经确诊 AOSD, 患者仍需规律随访, 以防减药不当、合并潜在感染或是恶性肿瘤等情况导致病情恶化。

目前, AOSD 的确切病因及发病机制尚未完全阐明。已经明确的是 AOSD 是一种自身炎症性疾病, 免疫细胞以及某些促炎因子的过度表达很可能是 AOSD 的核心发病机制[20] [21]。AOSD 的诱发因素主要包括基因易感性、感染及免疫失衡, 已经发现的与 AOSD 发病相关的病原体有小肠结肠炎耶尔森菌、细小病毒 B19、EB 病毒、支原体等, 但它们在 AOSD 发病机制中的具体作用尚未明确[1]。此外, 对于感染与 AOSD 的确切关系仍有争论, 感染只是巧合还是 AOSD 的诱发因素又或是其病因众说纷纭。研究表明肺炎支原体感染患者的自身免疫性疾病发病率有所升高[22] [23]。我们检索到的 3 例 AOSD 患者均表现出肺炎支原体感染与 AOSD 发病之间密切的时间关系。机体在感染肺炎支原体后, 其免疫系统和细胞因子网络会被随之而来的先天及后天免疫反应打破平衡, 机体也同样会经历过失控的、过度的系统性炎症反应, 这一点与 AOSD 极其相似[24] [25]。以上这些证据均指向——肺炎支原体与 AOSD 发病之间存在密切关联。

人们认为先天免疫和适应性免疫共同导致了 AOSD 的炎症反应[26]。中性粒细胞和巨噬细胞在初始免疫中占据主导地位[27]。研究发现 AOSD 患者体内的中性粒细胞活化标志物 CD64 水平明显上调[28]。近年来一项临床研究通过对比 35 名 AOSD 患者与 20 位健康对照人群血清的中性粒细胞胞外杀菌网络(neutrophil extracellular traps, NETs)残留水平提出未来 NETs 可能应用于检测 AOSD 的疾病活动性[29]。

此外,活化后的巨噬细胞可刺激铁蛋白过度释放,导致铁负荷增加、铁代谢紊乱,参与炎症反应调节[30]-[32]。研究发现,肺炎支原体包含了 50 多种不同的脂蛋白,称之为脂质相关膜蛋白(Lipid-associated membrane proteins, LAMPs),肺炎支原体感染后机体内的一系列炎症反应的启动主要依赖于 LAMPs [33] [34]。LAMPs 可以插入到包括巨噬细胞在内的各种细胞的脂质双分子层中,从而被 Toll 样受体(Toll like receptors, TLRs) (TLR1, TLR2, TLR6)所识别,进而引发先天免疫反应并激活下游的炎症通路,特别是核因子 κ B (NF- κ B)信号通路[35] [36]。肺炎支原体进入人体后附着于上皮细胞上,不仅从宿主细胞中汲取营养,而且还会产生各种毒性物质,例如过氧化物阴离子、社区获得性呼吸窘迫综合征(community acquired respiratory distress syndrome, CARDS)毒素,从而导致细胞毒性损伤及凋亡[37]。CARDS 毒素可激活 NOD 样受体热蛋白结构域相关蛋白 3 (NOD-like receptor thermal protein domain associated protein 3, NLRP3)炎症小体,进而促使促炎性因子以剂量依赖和活性依赖的方式表达,如肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)、白细胞介素 1 β (interleukin 1 β , IL-1 β) [38]-[40]。

继先天免疫反应之后,适应性免疫登上舞台并参与到 AOSD 的发生发展过程,AOSD 患者的淋巴结活检结果显示 T 细胞增殖明显,尤其是辅助性 T 细胞(helper T cell, Th 细胞) [21] [41]。D.Y. Chen 等人发现相较于健康对照组,AOSD 患者的外周血及病理组织中 Th1 细胞居多[42]。Th1 细胞通过释放 γ -干扰素(Interferon- γ , IFN- γ)、TNF- α 介导巨噬细胞及 NK 细胞活化,参与 AOSD 的系统炎症反应[42] [43]。细胞免疫在肺炎支原体感染的发病机制中发挥至关重要的作用。研究已经证实肺炎支原体感染患者体内存在 Th1/Th2 比例失衡,但具体哪种细胞类型占据主导地位目前仍有较大争议[44] [45]。研究表明,AOSD 患者循环内 CD4⁺ CD25⁺ 调节性 T 细胞(Regulatory T cells, Tregs)水平与其疾病活动性呈负相关[46]。不同病程类型的 AOSD 患者体内 Tregs 水平存在较大差异,与单病程及慢性关节炎症性病程等病程相对简单的 AOSD 患者相比,多病程患者循环中 Tregs 水平往往更高[47]。AOSD 患者体内先天性和适应性免疫的失调导致包括 IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 在内的诸多促炎因子过度释放。失衡的炎症反应引发的细胞因子风暴可能是 AOSD 发生严重并发症的关键原因[1] [48]。因此,AOSD 治疗的首要目标即为控制过度的炎症反应,以期缓解全身症状、防止严重并发症。AOSD 治疗药物主要分为四大类:非甾体类抗炎药(Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs, NSAIDs)、激素、改善病情的抗风湿药(disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, DMARDs)以及生物制剂[49]。其中激素是一线治疗选择,然而少数对激素治疗无效或是产生依赖的 AOSD 患者,建议选择二线治疗药物——DMARDs。对上述治疗反应性差的难治性 AOSD 患者推荐考虑生物制剂。截止目前,已有多项临床研究验证了 IL-6 及 IL-1 β 抑制剂在 AOSD 患者中表现出良好的疗效及治疗安全性[50]-[52]。基于现有研究结果,约四分之一到三分之一的 AOSD 患者对激素类和 DMARDs 效果较差[53]-[55]。在我们检索到的 3 例肺炎支原体感染合并 AOSD 患者中,2 例患者应用激素或 DMARDs 治疗后病情得到基本控制[6] [7],仅 1 例合并严重并发症 MAS 的患者尝试生物制剂治疗后病情得以明显缓解[8]。

5. 结论

我们提供了一例合并肺炎支原体感染的 AOSD 患者的发病史、诊疗过程以及随访结果的详细报告。尽管肺炎支原体已被纳为 AOSD 的诱发因素,但目前肺炎支原体感染后 AOSD 发病的病例报道十分罕见,二者的临床表现极为相似而治疗原则却大相径庭。本病例在确诊 AOSD 之前经历了很长一段时间的鉴别诊断过程及非针对性治疗,延误诊断可能导致严重的并发症甚至危及患者性命。基于此,我们希望此病例可警示临床医生面对不明原因发热患者时谨慎诊断。同时,我们也呼吁能有越来越多的体内及体外研究聚焦于 AOSD 和肺炎支原体感染在免疫学分子机制中的深层关系,进而为 AOSD 的早期诊断和治疗提供更多的理论依据。

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