

Dear friends of clinical journal club - load the latest file down at <https://www.mdc-berlin.de/cjc>. This website also gives you access to my seminar on Wednesdays 16:00 English and 17:00 German. You need to click on *Besprechung beizutreten*. If it fails to work immediately, keep on clicking.

A 38-year-old pregnant woman at 30 weeks' gestation was referred to the dermatology clinic for evaluation of an itchy lesion on her abdomen that had first appeared 9 years earlier and subsequently slowly expanded. The lesion first appeared after the patient had emigrated from Honduras, where she had worked in agriculture. Physical examination of the 15-cm lesion and the histopathological analysis of a skin-biopsy sample are shown. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis? You are offered: Blastomycosis, Chromoblastomycosis, Cutaneous leishmaniasis, Lobomycosis, and Tinea corporis. The biopsy makes the diagnosis ie. multicellular brown things.

Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) is an imaging technique useful for showing vascular plaques and helps with stent placement. Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is increasingly used for revascularization of unprotected left main coronary artery disease. Whether IVUS guidance during PCI results in better clinical outcomes than conventional angiographic guidance alone is uncertain. In an international, multicenter, open-label trial, investigators randomly assigned patients with unprotected left main coronary artery disease to undergo either IVUS-guided PCI or angiography-guided PCI. The primary end point was a patient-oriented composite of any stroke, any myocardial infarction, any revascularization, or death from any cause at the longest follow-up. The study showed that IVUS did not improve outcomes. Although practice guidelines recommend IVUS for anatomically complex lesions, evidence from current European practice is limited. In an investigator-initiated, international, open-label, randomized, controlled trial, cardiologists assigned patients undergoing complex PCI to either IVUS-guided PCI, performed with the use of prespecified stent-optimization criteria, or angiography-guided PCI. The primary end point was target-vessel failure, defined as a composite of death from cardiac causes, target-vessel myocardial infarction, or clinically indicated target-vessel revascularization. This study could also not show that utilizing IVUS caused better outcomes. Interleukin-10 is an important inflammatory ameliorating cytokine. Neutralizing autoantibodies against interleukin-10 can result in a phenocopy of monogenic defects of interleukin-10 signaling in children

and may be associated with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The allele HLA-DRB1*01:03 is the strongest genetic risk factor for ulcerative colitis. Investigators used a cellular interleukin-10 reporter assay and a confirmatory competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay to assess neutralizing interleukin-10 autoantibodies in serum samples obtained from patients with IBD in the Oxford and U.K. IBD BioResource cohorts and from persons without IBD (controls). An in vitro cytokine-release bioassay was performed in a subgroup of patients to assess interleukin-10, interleukin-23, interleukin-1 β , tumor necrosis factor, and interleukin-6. The investigators performed HLA association analysis using imputation and high-resolution sequencing. The authors show that neutralizing interleukin-10 autoantibodies were present in a subgroup of patients with IBD and were strongly associated with HLA-DRB1*01:03. The study reveals mechanisms of inflammatory bowel disease.

X-linked retinoschisis is a recessive eye disease characterized by progressive macular degeneration and vision loss due to pathogenic variation in RS1. Investigators administered a single subretinal injection of an AAV8 vector containing human RS1 complementary DNA (scAAV8-hRS1) into one eye of patients 5 to 18 years of age who had X-linked retinoschisis. The primary end point was safety during the 52-week period after injection. Secondary end points included the change from baseline to week 52 in the best corrected visual acuity. The study suggests that gene therapy could improve outcomes in children with X-linked retinoschisis. The N Engl J Med weekly review is about antidotes reversing currently available anticoagulation treatments. The N Engl J Med review is a 14-year-old girl with severe hypertension, hypokalemia and metabolic alkalosis. Finerenone is a nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) blocker designed to replace spironolactone. The efficacy and safety of finerenone in patients with chronic kidney disease (INFINITY 3-Trial Analysis) is presented in the Lancet. Finerenone appears effective and safe. Sadly, no direct comparisons with spironolactone were shown. Lancet next shows the end results of the atrasentan trial (blocks endothelin-A receptors) in patients with IgA nephropathy. Atrasentan was successful in reducing proteinuria and appears to preserve GFR in this condition. Retatrutide is a triple (incretin-like) stimulator of GLP-1, GIP, and Glucagon receptors. Stimulating glucagon receptors may increase calories burned by stimulating beta-oxidation. A trial against placebo examines the effects of retatrutide in patients with

type-2 diabetes. Lancet next presents three reviews on chronic kidney disease (CKD), prevention and treatment strategies. Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide (NAD) reactions refer to how NAD functions as a coenzyme. NAD primarily helps transfer electrons (REDOX) and acts as a key signaling molecule for energy production, DNA repair, and many other vital enzymatic reactions. In Science Magazine, investigators show that 15-hydroxy prostaglandin dehydrogenase (15-PGDH)— an enzyme that prevents premature labor by degrading the labor-promoting factor prostaglandin E2 (PGE2)—requires NAD⁺ as an essential coenzyme. As pregnancy reaches its term, placental NAD⁺ levels drop sharply, rendering 15-PGDH inactive. The accumulation of PGE2 then triggers parturition. In Washington Post we are shown more details on how “big tobacco” bought into “big food” in the 1980’s after Reagan’s deregulatory policies. As a result, caloric and sugar consumption in the USA skyrocketed and the people gained weight. The next presentation will be in English at 16:00, German at 17:00, and will take place will on Wednesday June 17, 2026.

Sincerely, Fred Luft

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