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## ABSTRACT

### INTRODUCTION

- Hepatitis is acute inflammation of the liver, and it is most often caused by viral infections (Hepatitis A, B, C), as well as by alcohol, toxins, and other causes.
- This can be acute or chronic in nature, and will often present with symptoms including fatigue, nausea and vomiting, and jaundice. Elevated liver enzymes will aid in diagnosis.
- However, when some of the most common causes have been ruled out, additional evaluation is performed into less common causes.
- We present a case of acute hepatitis secondary to syphilis.

### Case Description

- The patient is a 38-year-old male who presented with increasing fatigue and abnormal liver enzymes. He also noted lower extremity swelling as well as the presence of a new rash all over his body.
- He denied any nausea, vomiting, fevers, abdominal pain, constipation or diarrhea. He denied any recent medication changes, and denies smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use. Family history was unremarkable.
- There was no history of blood transfusion. The patient reports being sexually active with multiple female partners in the past.
- CMP was significant for an ALP of 451, AST 155, and ALT 240. Bilirubin was normal.
- CBC showed a hemoglobin of 11.7 with an MCV of 76.8. His most recent CBC and LFTs from four months prior were normal.
- Hep B/C, HIV, HSV, GC, and Chlamydia all recently tested negative.
- Serologic studies for ANA, ASMA, ceruloplasmin, alpha-1 antitrypsin, and iron panel all were normal.
- The patient later is found to have tested positive for syphilis during plasma donation.
- A red, macular rash was present on the palms of his hands, soles, and lower legs.
- Treatment with IM Penicillin G was initiated. Following treatment, his LFTs were trended, which revealed ALP of 438, AST 54, and ALT 114. The patient was advised to follow-up with his PCP to assess for symptom resolution.

### Conclusion

- Syphilis is an infection that can present with a variety of different symptoms.
- Though syphilis and hepatitis has been rarely associated in the past, it is a rare cause, and delayed diagnosis can result in significant patient morbidity.
- Many patients will note a characteristic painless, genital lesion. However, this can go unnoticed or underreported by the patient as it self-resolves.
- While it is incredibly sensitive to penicillin, prompt diagnosis can be challenging, and late stages of syphilis can result in irreversible complications.

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