





Acute Presentations of HIV: Looking at all sides of the story

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Conflict of Interest Declaration

In relation to this presentation, we both declare that we have **no conflict of interest**

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Ward Nursing Team & AHPs

- Staff nurses
- Support workers
- House keepers
- Pharmacists
- Physios
- OTs

Medical Team

- Consultants
- Junior doctors
- Clinical fellows

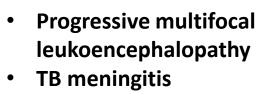
Specialist Nursing Team

- Specialist nurses (band 6 and 7)
- Senior support workers

Patients

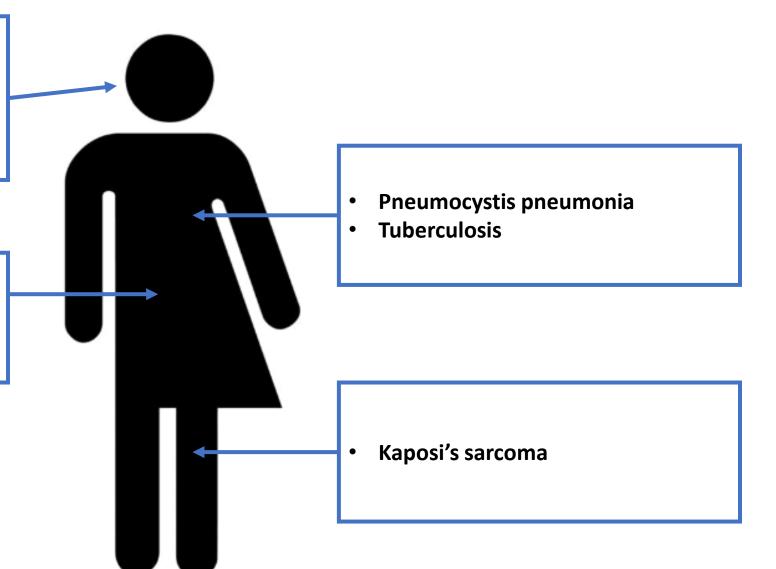
 A diverse and complex group of people living with HIV

The past 6 months



- Toxoplasmosis
- Poor mental health

- Seroconversion illness
- Weight loss
- Candidiasis



Patient One – New diagnosis of primary HIV

- JP is a 41 year old o male, MSM, long term open relationship
- Presented with diarrhoea, vomiting, reduced intake, hypertension, tachycardia
- Had been on prep
- Treatment plan start antiretrovirals, baseline bloods,
 CNS input, intravenous fluids

Management and experiences

- Medical team symptom control and management
- Ward nurses and AHPs mixed experiences, capacity for time, sensitive diagnosis so struggle to engage
- Patient Surprised by inpatient admission and how long it took to confirm. Found hospital isolating, but staff supportive
- Specialist Nurse Although patient was well educated, curious about how to safely return to usual sexual activity and work guidance. Information given and signposted to support services.

Patient Two – Late diagnosis of HIV

- 50 year old heterosexual male
- Admitted through A&E with productive cough 10+ days, weight loss and shortness of breath when mobilising
- CPAP/high flow, ICU review, BBV screen
- Unclear on last HIV screen, not informed family, no obvious "risk" factors identified, 6 years+ last partner

Management and experiences

- Medical team Prompting the HIV test, management of acute illness and liaison with escalation team
- Ward nurses and AHPs Building relationships with patients. Although struggle during the day, night shift able to build rapport.
- Patient Conscious about judgements how they may have acquired HIV, did not fit into any "high risk" groups, felt like this was questioned frequently.
- Specialist Nurse trying to rationalise to the patient to not focus on stereotypes, explaining we see a wide range of patients with different lifestyles, genders, sexualities. Also supported with him navigating telling his family and why his diagnosis might have been missed

Patient 3 – Defaulted from HIV care

- 40 year old Zimbabwean woman
- Diagnosed with HIV during pregnancy in 2006
- Mixed experience with concordance to ART
- Partially re-engaged with HIV care in January 2023
- Admitted from a respiratory clinic appointment late December 2024 with widespread Kaposi's sarcoma, lower respiratory tract infection, extensive oesophageal candidiasis and CD4 count of 60
- She had very poor psychical reserve and was declared "not for resuscitation"

Management and experiences

- Medics Management of acute presentation and liaison with oncology, advocating for the patient and their care
- Ward nurses and AHPs Support with patient care, nutritional support, 24 hour emotional support and reassurance
- Patient This was an incredibly scary time. The hospital rooms felt isolating. Lots of uncertainty around next steps
- Specialist Nurses familiar faces who had to have very difficult conversations around advanced care planning and navigate family dynamics
- Education and exploration of the barriers to engagement and care planning once there was a treatment plan

Conclusion

- Acute presentations of HIV come in all different shapes and sizes
- Being an inpatient at any stage of your HIV journey can be scary, isolating and overwhelming
- It takes a village! The whole multi-disciplinary team are crucial to giving great inpatient care to people living with HIV.

Thank you for your time!

What questions do you have?