



Sinus Woes

Karen Binkley, MD, FRCPC

Notes on Perry

Age: 22

Presentation: Perry presents with recurrent respiratory tract infections

- ✓ Perry has eight to 12 sinus infections per year
- ✓ There is no seasonal pattern
- ✓ His sinus infections are characterized by fever, facial pain radiating to the teeth and purulent discharge
- ✓ His episodes of sinus infection respond to antibiotics; between episodes he is well
- ✓ He has had four episodes of pneumonia in the last two years

Medical history:

- ✓ Perry has a history of autoimmune thyroiditis (diagnosed at age 18)
- ✓ He is otherwise well
- ✓ His maternal aunt died at age 32 of pneumonia-associated sepsis

Physical exam:

- ✓ Perry's physical exam is normal

Routine investigations:

- ✓ His complete blood cell count differential is normal
- ✓ His blood sugar, creatinine, liver function tests and thyroid function tests are normal
- ✓ His chest X-ray shows minimal chronic changes in the right lower lobe
- ✓ His allergy skin tests are negative
- ✓ There is X-ray evidence of right lower lobe consolidation

What do you suspect?

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Final diagnosis:

Common variable immunodeficiency

- ✓ Quantitative immunoglobulins (IgA, IgG and IgM) are all < 25% normal

Management:

- ✓ Perry requires replacement IV gammaglobulin
- ✓ He should undergo baseline pulmonary function tests and have a computerized tomography scan of his chest
- ✓ It is recommended that Perry be referred to a specialist in Clinical Immunology and Allergy. **Dx**

Upcoming cases

- ✓ **December:** Contact dermatitis
- ✓ **January:** Mastocytosis
- ✓ **February:** Seasonal allergy unctivitis

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