Unexplained Hepatic, Neurologic or Psychiatric Symptoms?

Think.........

WILSON DISEASE
# TABLE 1. CLINICAL FEATURES IN PATIENTS WITH WILSON DISEASE

**Hepatic**
- Asymptomatic hepatomegaly
- Isolated splenomegaly
- Persistently elevated serum aminotransferase activity (AST, ALT)
- Fatty liver
- Acute hepatitis
- Resembling autoimmune hepatitis
- Cirrhosis: compensated or decompensated
- Acute liver failure

**Psychiatric**
- Depression
- Neurotic behaviours
- Personality changes
- Psychosis

**Neurological**
- Movement disorders (tremor, involuntary movements)
- Drooling, dysarthria
- Rigid dystonia
- Pseudobulbar palsy
- Dysautonomia
- Migraine headaches
- Insomnia
- Seizures

**Other Systems**
- Ocular: Kayser-Fleischer rings, sunflower cataracts
- Cutaneous: lunulae ceruleae
- Renal abnormalities: aminoaciduria and nephrolithiasis
- Skeletal abnormalities: premature osteoporosis and arthritis
- Cardiomyopathy, dysrhythmias
- Pancreatitis
- Hypoparathyroidism
- Menstrual irregularities; infertility, repeated miscarriages
Figure 1.
Approach to diagnosis of Wilson disease (WD) in a patient with unexplained liver disease.

* UNEXPLAINED LIVER DISEASE

EVALUATION FOR WILSON DISEASE
• Slit Lamp Examination for Kayser-Fleisher (KF) Rings
• Serum Ceruloplasmin (CPN)
• 24 Hour Urine Copper (Cu)

KF Rings Present
CPN <20 mg/dL (0.2 g/L)
24 Hr. Urine Cu >40 mcg (0.6 µmol)

KF Rings Present
CPN ≥20 mg/dL (0.2 g/L)
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KF Rings Absent
CPN <20 mg/dL (0.2 g/L)
24 Hr. Urine Cu ≤40 mcg (0.6 µmol)

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Liver Biopsy for histology and Cu quantification

Liver Biopsy for histology

Liver Biopsy for Cu quantification

>250 mcg/g dry wgt
≤250 mcg/g dry wgt
<50 mcg/g dry wgt
50-250 mcg/g dry wgt
>250 mcg/g dry wgt

Diagnosis of WD Excluded

Molecular Genetic Testing **
(See Figure 3)

Diagnosis of WD Confirmed

* Abnormal liver histology and/or liver function tests without clear etiology.
** Molecular testing means confirming homozygosity for one mutation or defining two mutations constituting compound heterozygosity.
NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDER ± LIVER DISEASE

EVALUATION FOR WILSON DISEASE
• Slit Lamp Examination for Kayser-Fleisher (KF) Rings
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KF Rings Absent
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Liver Biopsy for histology and Cu quantification

> 250 mcg/g dry wt
< 50 mcg/g dry wt
50-250 mcg/g dry wt

Diagnosis of WD Excluded

Molecular Genetic Testing **
(See Figure 3)

Diagnosis of WD Confirmed

** Molecular testing means confirming homozygosity for one mutation or defining two mutations constituting compound heterozygosity.

*** If molecular testing unavailable or limited testing performed.

Figure 2.
Approach to diagnosis of Wilson disease (WD) in a patient with a neurological disorder or psychiatric disease with or without liver disease.
Figure 3.
Screening for Wilson disease (WD) in a sibling or child of a patient with secure diagnosis of WD. If molecular testing is available in the index patient, then this is the most efficient screening strategy. If initial screening by blood biochemistries and urine testing is normal, then consider repeat screening in 2 – 5 years.
“The Wilson’s Disease Association funds research and facilitates and promotes the identification, education, treatment, and support of patients and other individuals affected by Wilson disease.”

For more information please contact the:

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