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Case Series of ANCA Vasculitis as Marker for Severity or Relapse of Glomerulonephritis



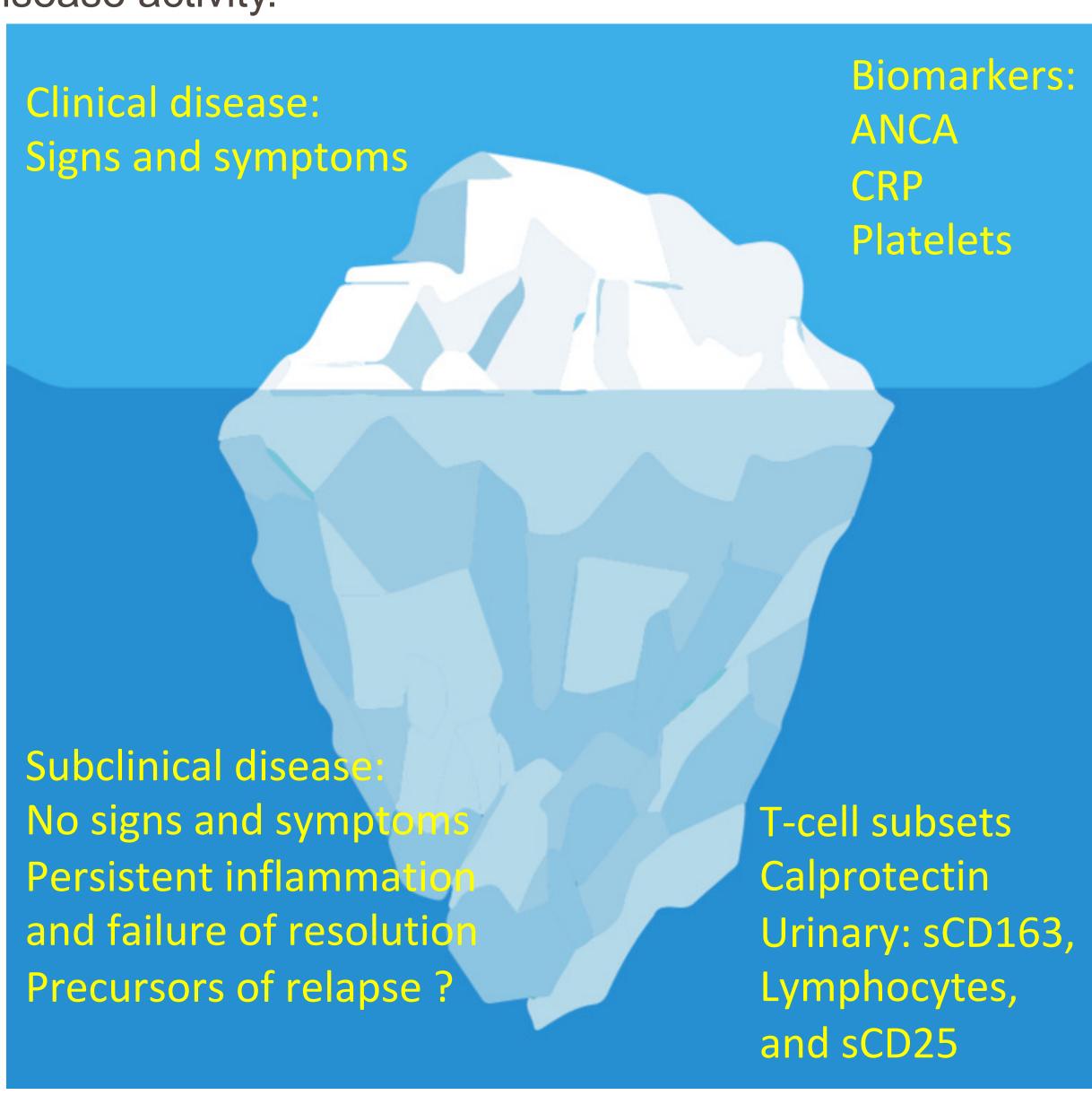
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Introduction

Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) associated vasculitides involve pauci-immune small vessel vasculitis that can lead to rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis. This case series examines the role of ANCA titers such as proteinase 3 (PR3) and myeloperoxidase (MPO) antibodies in assessing disease activity.



Clinically overt disease versus subclinical persistent inflammation in ANCA-associated vasculitis. Figure adapted from Salama (2020).

Case Presentations

Case 1 involves a 63 year old female with microscopic polyangitis who developed pulmonary-renal syndrome requiring intubation, plasmapheresis and immunosuppression. Table 1 shows anti-MPO titer elevated to 80 U/ml with proteinuria and acute kidney injury.

Case 2 involves a 60 year old female with CKD stage 3 and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in remission who relapsed and developed pauci-immune crescentic glomerulo-nephritis. In case 2, anti-PR3 titer was elevated (>100 U/mL) and associated with a 20-fold increase in the Protein/Creatinine ratio of 2343 mg/g. She eventually required peritoneal dialysis.

Case 3 involves a 78 year old female with CKD stage 3 and anti-MPO vasculitis in remission but developed AKI with a 6 fold increase in anti-MPO titer and 10 fold increase in proteinuria. She was managed conservatively with rituximab.

Table

Table 1. Case Series of ANCA vasculitis associated glomerulonephritis				
Case #, sex, age,	Renal function	Renal function	Special labs	Treatment course
diagnosis	at remission	at relapse		
Case 1:	Creatinine	Creatinine	• P-ANCA titer 1:80	methylprednisolone 250mg
Female 63 year old,	0.90 to 1.70	2.60 mg/dL	(positive)	 plasmapharesis
Microscopic	mg/dL			 cyclophosphamide
Polyangitis,		eGFR	Anti-MPO 80 U/ml	• Mesna
Pulmonary-renal	eGFR	19 ml/min	(ref. 0-9)	 hemodialysis catheter
syndrome	30 ml/min			
Case 2:	Creatinine	Creatinine	• Remission:	 Rituximab 375 mg/m²
Female 60 year old,	1.8 mg/dL	3.90 mg/dL	ESR 8 to 16 mm/hr	 methylprednisolone 250 mg
2007, C-ANCA, anti	eGFR	eGFR 11 mL/min	(ref. 0 - 20)	 prednisone taper
PR3 positive, FSGS	31 mL/min			 peritoneal dialysis
(biopsy)		PR3 Antibody	• Flare:	 kidney transplant list
	PR3 antibody	>100 U/mL	ESR 103 mm/hr	
2017, C-ANCA, anti	8 to 79 U/mL		(ref. 0 - 20)	
PR3 positive, PICG		Prot/Crt ratio:		
(biopsy)	Prot/Crt ratio:	2343 mg/g		
	34 to 81 mg/g			
Case 3:	Creatinine	Creatinine	• Remission:	 kidney biopsy inconclusive
Female 78 year old,	1.37 mg/dL	1.81 mg/dL	ESR 14 mm/hr	 no steroids, osteoporosis
anti MPO positive,	eGFR 37 mL/min	eGFR 27 mL/min	(ref. 0 - 20)	 Rituximab 375 mg/m²
ANCA, glomerulo-				Rituximab 500 mg
nephritis	anti MPO 4.9 Al	anti MPO 30 Al	• Flare:	maintenance to 24 months
	(ref. <1.0)	(ref. <1.0)	ESR 111 mm/hr	• Elderly BMI ref. 25–30
			(ref. 0 - 20)	
	Prot/Crt ratio:	Prot/Crt ratio:		
	263 mg/g	2329 mg/g	Weight loss BMI	
			18.67 to 16.36 kg/m ²	

Abbreviations:

Time-dependent variable

(c)

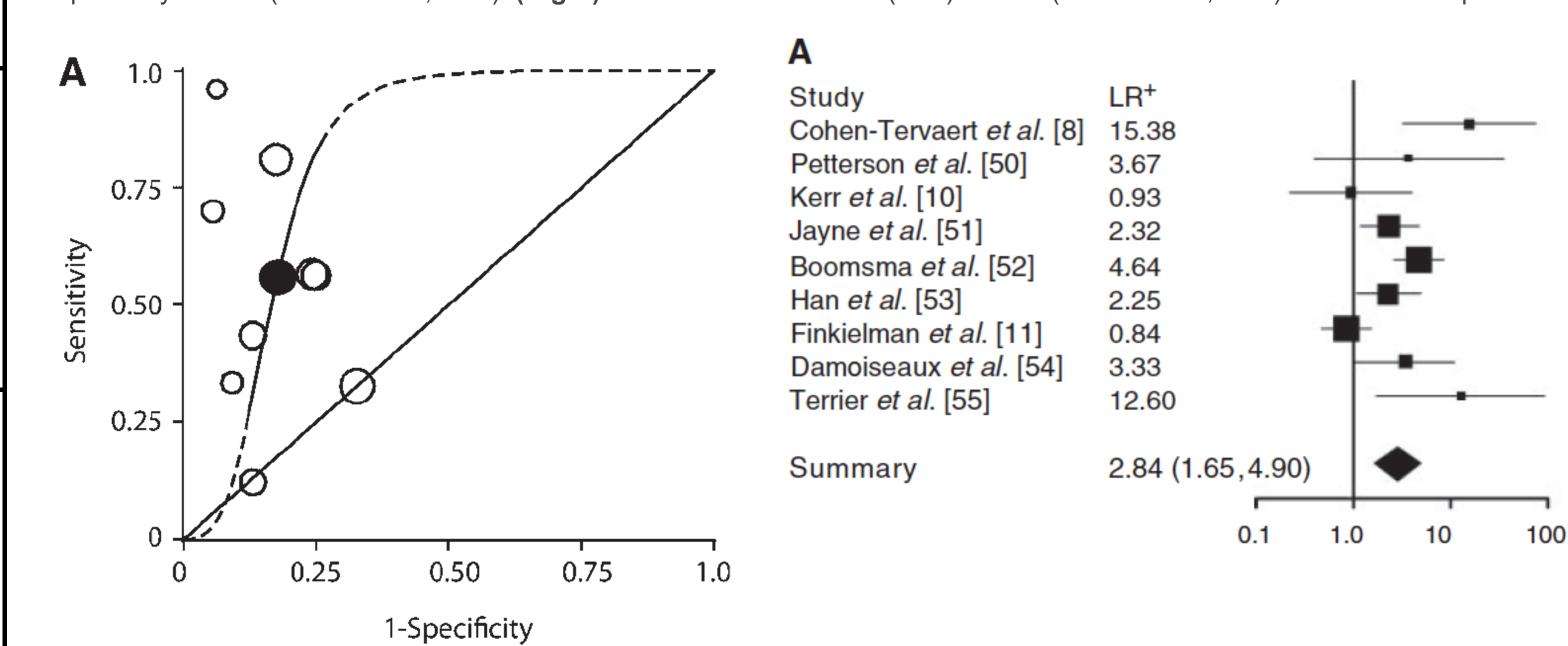
ref. (reference), eGFR (estimated glomerular Filtration Rate), ESR (erythrocyte sedimentation rate), C-ANCA (cytoplasmic anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antibodies), P-ANCA (peri-nuclear anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antibodies), MPO (Myeloperoxidase), PR3 (Proteinase-3), PICG (Pauci immune crescentic glomerulonephritis), FSGS (Focal Segmental glomerulosclerosis), Crt (Creatinine), Prot (Protein), Prot/Crt ratio ref. < 160

Rise = 0

Rise = 1

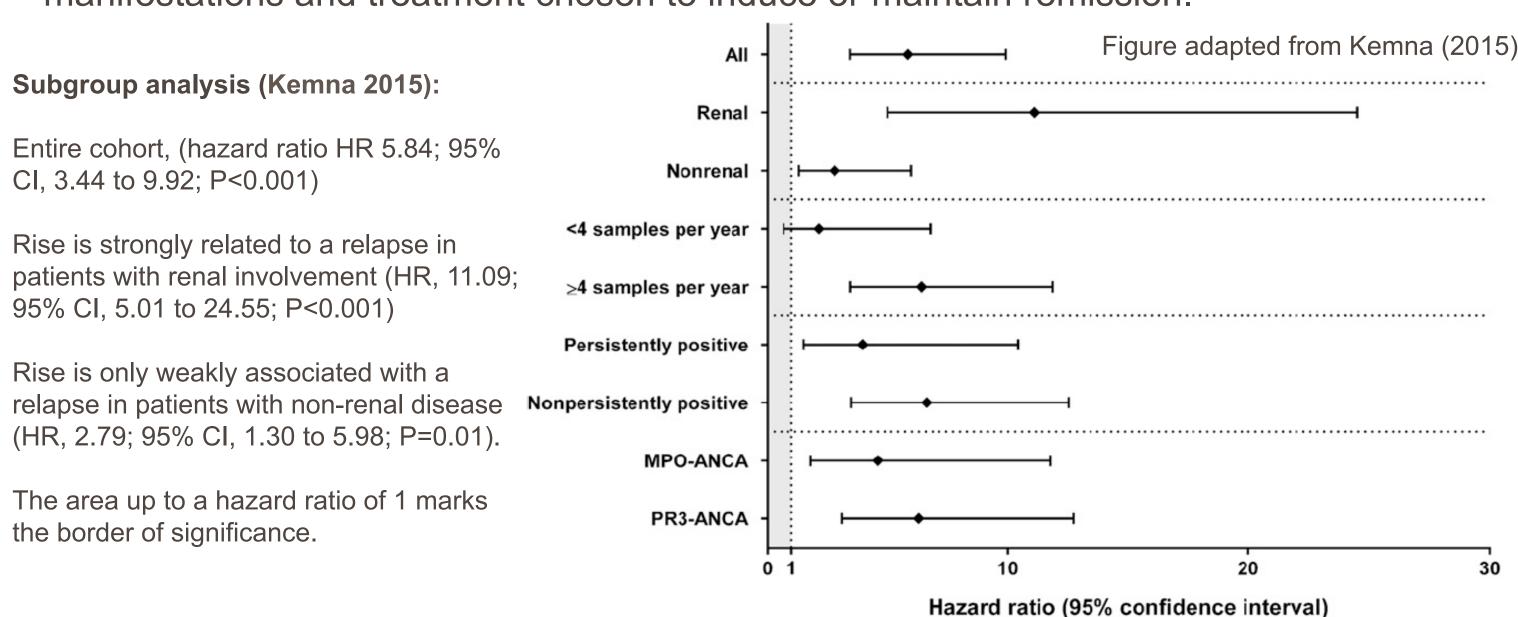
Literature Review (Selected cases)

1. Tomasson meta-analysis (2012): 15 primary studies on the predictability of ANCA on relapse of disease, 9 with a total of 503 patients with a rise in ANCA and 9 with a total of 430 patients with persistently positive ANCA. Figures show analysis for Rise: (Left) Receiver operator curve for a rise in ANCA as predictor of relapse. Estimated sensitivity of 0.56 (95% CI 0.33, 0.79) and specificity of 0.82 (95% CI 0.75, 0.90). (Right) Positive likelihood ratio (LR+) of 2.84 (95% CI 1.65, 4.90) of a future relapse.



Serial ANCA measurements subject of controversy (Fussner 2016):

- The utility of ANCA testing has been widely accepted, but the clinical utility of ANCA as a biomarker of disease activity and predictor of relapses has remained a controversy:
- Published data on serial ANCA testing is heterogeneous with multiple variables possibly affecting the interpretation:
- Types of ANCA, the assays used, time intervals between measurements, definitions of rises in ANCA titres, inclusion of subgroups of patients with different disease manifestations and treatment chosen to induce or maintain remission.



Conclusion

- Although measuring ANCA to predict disease activity remains controversial, this
 case series demonstrates association between ANCA titers and severity of renal
 disease. ANCA titers may provide prognostic value that can be useful when
 discussing therapy options with the renal patient
- Understanding the pathophysiology of disease activity and remission to help define better biomarkers to positively affect adverse events and patient outcomes.



- Tomasson G, et al. Value of ANCA measurements during remission to predict a relapse of ANCA-associated vasculitis—a meta-analysis.
- Salama AD. Relapse in Anti-Neutrophil Cytoplasm Antibody (ANCA)—Associated Vasculitis. Kidney Int Rep (2020) 5, 7–12.
- Kemna MJ, et al. ANCA as a Predictor of Relapse: Useful in Patients with Renal Involvement But Not in Patients with Nonrenal Disease.
- Fussner LA, et al. Factors Determining the Clinical Utility of Serial Measurements of Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibodies Targeting Proteinase 3. Arthritis and Rheumatology. Vol. 68, No. 7, July 2016, pp 1700–1710

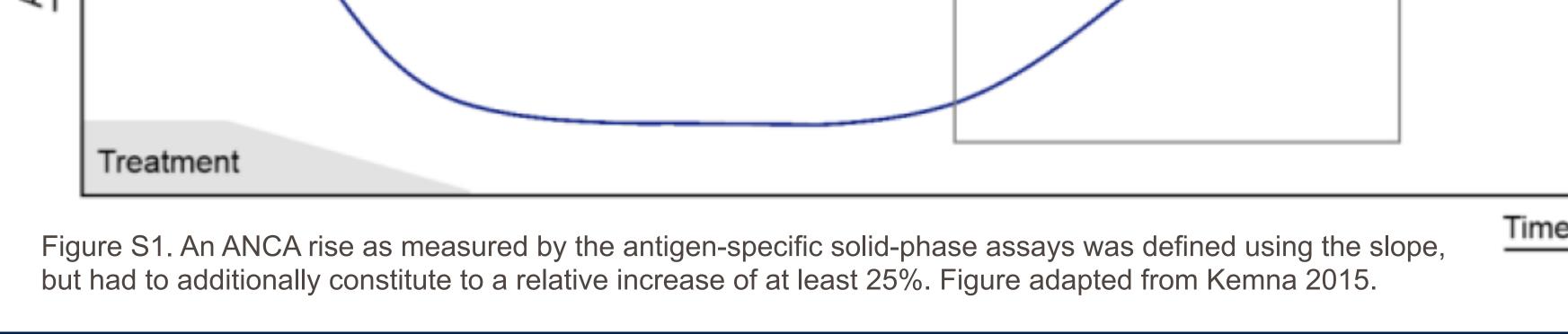


Figure adapted from Kemna (2015)

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