



PEDIATRIC BLOOD AND MARROW TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

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Guidelines for the Management of Athymia Patients

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GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ATHYMIA PATIENTS

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline the management of athymia patients within the Pediatric Transplant and Cellular Therapy (PTCT) Program.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pediatric athymia patients experience immune dysregulation and are at risk for severe infection and other life threatening health issues.
- 2.2 These patients require coordinated and ongoing complex care by an integrated healthcare team.

3 SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Interdisciplinary: All healthcare staff providing care to the athymia patient in the PTCT program are responsible to adhering to the contents of this document.

4 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS

- 4.1 AI Allergy/Immunology
- 4.2 BSA Body Surface Area
- 4.3 CBC Complete Blood Count
- 4.4 CMV Cytomegalovirus
- 4.5 CTTI Cultured Thymus Tissue Implantation
- 4.6 CXR Chest X-ray
- 4.7 CYA Cyclosporine
- 4.8 EBV Epstein Barr Virus
- 4.9 FK Tacrolimus
- 4.10 GFR Glomerular Filtration Rate
- 4.11 GVHD Graft Versus Host Disease
- 4.12 Hgb Hemoglobin
- 4.13 HHV6 Human herpesvirus 6
- 4.14 Ical Ionized Calcium
- 4.15 ID Infectious Disease
- 4.16 Ig Immunoglobulin
- 4.17 IV Intravenous
- 4.18 MAC Mycobacterium avium complex

4.19	MWF	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4.20	NPO	Nothing by Mouth
4.21	PACU	Post Anesthesia Care Unit
4.22	OR	Operating Room
4.23	OT	Occupational Therapy
4.24	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
4.25	PHA	Phytohemagglutinin
4.26	PIV	Peripheral Intravenous
4.27	PJP	Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia
4.28	PLT	Platelet
4.29	PRA	Panel reactive Antibody
4.30	PRN	as needed, as required
4.31	PT	Physical Therapy
4.32	PTCT	Pediatric Transplant and Cellular Therapy
4.33	PTH	Parathyroid
4.34	ST	Speech Therapy
4.35	SOP	Standardized Operating Procedure
4.36	T&S	Type and Screen
4.37	URI	Upper Respiratory Infection
4.38	UTI	Urinary Tract Infection

5 MATERIALS

5.1 N/A

6 EQUIPMENT

6.1 N/A

7 SAFETY

7.1 N/A

8 PROCEDURE

8.1 Admission

8.1.1 Consults:

8.1.1.1 Standard consults (all patients):

8.1.1.1.1 Allergy/Immunology (AI)

8.1.1.1.2 Endocrinology

- 8.1.1.1.3 Transplant Infectious Disease (ID)
 - 8.1.1.1.4 Occupational/Physical/Speech Therapy (OT/PT/ST)
 - 8.1.1.2 Additional Consults (as needed basis):
 - 8.1.1.2.1 Pulmonology, Respiratory Therapy, Cardiology, Nephrology, Neurology, etc.
- 8.1.2 Body Habitus – Height, Weight, BSA
 - 8.1.2.1 Accurate height is very important for cultured thymus issue implant (CTTI).
 - 8.1.2.2 Document each in the medical record at admission.
- 8.1.3 Laboratory and Imaging:
 - 8.1.3.1 Standard Admission Labs:
 - 8.1.3.1.1 TPN2, ionized calcium (ica)
 - 8.1.3.1.2 Parathyroid (PTH)
 - 8.1.3.1.3 Coagulation screen - x1 initially, then repeat pre-op if no issues
 - 8.1.3.2 Blood Counts:
 - 8.1.3.2.1 CBC and MANUAL diff
 - 8.1.3.2.2 Note: This should be drawn with the PHA and Lymphocyte Enumeration (LE); send on same day x1
 - 8.1.3.3 Thyroid Profile:
 - 8.1.3.3.1 Single panel includes: TSH and free T4
 - 8.1.3.4 Transfusion Related Screening:
 - 8.1.3.4.1 Type and Screen (T&S)
 - 8.1.3.4.2 Confirmatory ABO
 - 8.1.3.5 Immunosuppression - Medication Levels; only as applicable:
 - 8.1.3.5.1 Cyclosporine (CYA) Level
 - 8.1.3.5.2 Tacrolimus (FK506) Level
 - 8.1.3.6 Imaging:
 - 8.1.3.6.1 Chest X-ray (CXR)
 - 8.1.3.7 Renal Studies:
 - 8.1.3.7.1 Renal ultrasound
 - 8.1.3.7.2 Nuc med GFR
 - 8.1.3.7.3 Cystatin C

8.1.3.8 Immunoglobulin profile

8.1.3.8.1 Single panel includes: IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE

8.1.3.9 Viral PCRs: See Table 1.

8.1.3.9.1 Adeno, EBV, HHV6 – as a single sample

8.1.3.9.2 CMV

8.1.3.9.3 Timing: can be sent shortly after admission to space out lab draws.

Table 1. Viral PCRs			
Lab Sample	Notes	Location	Delivery Details
Adenovirus	Consolidate to be single sample (Adeno, EBV, HHV6)	Viracor	Can be sent shortly after admission if needed to space out lab draws
Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) *Gen code Test ID4501			
HHV6			
CMV		Duke	

8.1.3.10 Immunology Labs – Repeat at Duke

Table 2. Immunology labs to Repeat at Duke			
Lab Sample	Notes	Location	Delivery Details
PRA	Within 30 days of implantation, repeated at Duke Needs repeated if patient receives a PRBC transfusion prior to CTTI	HLA lab	Courier or Tube station
PHA	Only if enough lymphocytes present – confirm with AI team	Immunology Lab: 919-684-6939	Courier
Lymphocyte Enumeration (LE)	Repeat after completion of ATG	Flow Cytometry lab	

8.1.3.11 Additional Infectious Studies

- 8.1.3.11.1 Referring hospital to screen for C. Diff and Norovirus stool studies within 1-2 weeks of transfer to Duke (patients often chronically infected)
- 8.1.3.11.2 Referring hospital to screen for active respiratory viral infections with eRVP within 1 week prior to transfer to Duke (patients often chronically infected)
- 8.1.3.11.3 If applicable, referring hospital to obtain respiratory sputum culture with tracheostomy patients for future potential targeted antibiotic use
- 8.1.3.11.4 Trach respiratory sputum culture to be repeated at Duke on arrival

8.2 Conditioning and Immunosuppression for patients who require immunosuppression prior to implantation.

8.2.1 rATG

- 8.2.1.1 Peripheral IV (PIV) placed prior to or morning of rATG, if patient does not have multiple existing points of access
- 8.2.1.2 Treatment plan to be released morning of planned start of conditioning, with standard infusion time of 1400
- 8.2.1.3 After Day 1 of rATG and if patient is tolerating infusion without concern of reaction AND loses PIV, please transition supportive meds to enteral and leave emergency meds IV
- 8.2.1.4 Monitor ionized calcium daily and replete with PRN calcium gluconate to goal of 1.15-1.2 during rATG

8.2.2 Cyclosporine (and tacrolimus) levels based on PHA response (per Athymia handbook)

- 8.2.2.1 Standard cyclosporine goals 180-220 (tacrolimus: 7-10)
- 8.2.2.2 May need to target higher troughs based on PHA response or if patient presents with maternal T cell engraftment (see Athymia handbook)
- 8.2.2.3 Confirm target range with AI
- 8.2.2.4 *If CD3 cells fall and remain < 50/mm³, cyclosporine should be weaned to have a trough concentration of 100–150ng/mL. If CD3 cells remain ≥ 50/mm³, cyclosporine should be maintained at >180 until naïve T cells are ≥ 10% of CD3 cells; When naïve T cells are >10% and there is no*

evidence of autologous GVHD, cyclosporine can be weaned off over 10 weeks

8.2.2.5 *If T cells are fully suppressed by rATG (CD3 cells fall and remain < 50/mm³), cyclosporine can be weaned to have a trough concentration of 100–150 ng/mL 30 days following CTTI*

8.2.3 Discuss with AI need for additional immunosuppression with mycophenolate or steroids

8.3 Supportive Care Considerations

8.3.1 **Patients requiring respiratory support beyond 4L basic nasal cannula or a higher level of critical care support will be admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. All other patients will be admitted to the inpatient Pediatric Transplant and Cellular Therapy Unit.**

8.3.2 Standard labs – unless otherwise clinically indicated; goal to consolidate to avoid iatrogenic anemia requiring transfusion

8.3.2.1 MWF CBC

8.3.2.2 Weekly differentials

8.3.2.3 MWF TPN2

8.3.2.4 MWF albumin (corrected calcium)

8.3.2.5 MWF ical, or daily if clinically indicated

8.3.2.6 During ATG: daily TPN1, ical

8.3.3 Standard antimicrobial prophylaxis – patient should arrive already receiving as prophylaxis

8.3.3.1 Fungal: Fluconazole 3-6mg/kg/day

8.3.3.2 MAC: Azithromycin 20mg/kg weekly

8.3.3.3 PJP: Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole 150/750 mg/m² of body surface area/day divided into 2 equal doses given 3 times weekly on consecutive days

8.3.3.4 +/- Viral: Acyclovir; continue if patient arrives on, but do not initiate

8.3.4 IVIG

8.3.4.1 IgG level

8.3.4.1.1 Admission

8.3.4.1.2 Weekly (Mondays)

8.3.4.2 IVIG infusion

8.3.4.2.1 When IgG < 800 PRN

8.3.4.2.2 When required, infuse weekly (Tuesdays)

8.3.5 Anemia

8.3.5.1 Often develops secondary to lab draws or iron-deficiency anemia

8.3.5.2 Standard transfusion thresholds: Hgb < 7, Plts < 10

8.3.5.3 All patients:

8.3.5.3.1 Irradiated, leuko-reduced blood products

8.3.5.4 If patient needs transfusion prior to CTTI:

8.3.5.4.1 Repeat PRA antibody screen – however, avoid if possible to avoid potential subsequent delays with CTTI

8.3.5.5 If applicable:

8.3.5.5.1 Continue enteral ferrous sulfate

8.3.5.5.2 Consider sending iron and total iron binding capacity (TIBC)

8.3.5.5.3 Consider parenteral iron administration (c/f poor absorption enterally)

8.3.6 Hypoparathyroidism and hypocalcemia

8.3.6.1 Continue enteral calcium, calcitriol, cholecalciferol as needed with recommendations from Endocrine

8.3.6.2 Calcium goals pre-implantation:

8.3.6.2.1 Serum calcium 9-10 and ical 1.15-1.2

8.3.6.2.2 Consider calcium gluconate 50mg/kg IV PRN for ical 1-1.14

8.3.6.2.3 Consider calcium gluconate 100mg/kg IV PRN for ical < 1

8.3.6.3 Calcium goals 24h post-implantation:

8.3.6.3.1 Serum calcium 8-9 and ical 1-1.15

8.3.6.3.2 Calcium gluconate 50mg/kg IV PRN for ical < 1

8.3.7 Hypomagnesemia

8.3.7.1 Magnesium goals ≥ 2 peri-CTTI

8.3.7.1.1 Maintain with standard PTCT as needed (PRN) order

8.3.7.2 Continue or initiate enteral magnesium as indicated

8.3.7.3 Magnesium goal ≥ 1.7 acceptable at time of discharge

8.4 Day of Implantation

8.4.1 NPO at midnight with IVF

- 8.4.2 Anticipate stress dose steroids if needed (not common)
- 8.4.3 Standard OR time is 1400, **extremely time-sensitive, this is determined by GMP lab**
- 8.4.4 Patient should be transported off the floor at least 1 hour prior to OR time
 - 8.4.4.1 Inpatient APP Team to contact peri-op RN to confirm transport plans and confirm PACU awareness of immunocompromised status
 - 8.4.4.2 Anesthesia team lead of the day, if needed: (Pager: 919-970-7337)
- 8.4.5 Bedside RN to communicate with pre-op/PACU in AM and anticipate reverse isolation needs
 - 8.4.5.1 Peri-Op Immunocompromised Status Letter to travel with patient
- 8.4.6 Post-op pain: scheduled Tylenol x24h, ibuprofen PRN (if platelets and renal function appropriate), oxycodone PRN for breakthrough pain
- 8.5 Discharge considerations
 - 8.5.1 Patients remain admitted post-CTTI for an approximate minimum of two weeks
 - 8.5.2 PTCT team to follow outpatient for a minimum of two weeks
 - 8.5.3 If discharged locally, family instructed to contact PTCT on-call pager with any concerns (PTCT On call pager: 919-970-1424)
 - 8.5.4 Specific considerations
 - 8.5.4.1 CTTI site changes: erythema, drainage, swelling, new movement restriction or inability to bear weight
 - 8.5.4.2 Fever:
 - 8.5.4.2.1 See separate athymia fever management guidelines titled: *PBMT-GEN-072 Guidelines for management of fever in pediatric patients with athymia in the peri-implantation period of RETHYMIC.*
 - 8.5.4.3 Symptoms of new infection: URI signs and symptoms, worsening diarrhea, vomiting, dysuria
 - 8.5.4.4 High risk for viral infections and UTIs
 - 8.5.4.5 Risk for seizures secondary to hypocalcemia
 - 8.5.4.6 Feeding intolerance, enteral tube dislodgement, g-tube site changes

9 RELATED DOCUMENTS/FORMS

- 9.1 PBMT-GEN-072 Guidelines for management of fever in pediatric patients with athymia in the peri-implantation period of RETHYMIC.

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