Dengue fever a rare cause of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP): a case report

Abstract

Background:

Dengue is a common arboviral infectious disease with increasing global prevalence. Dengue fever (DF) is rarely known to cause TTP, which is a rare and potentially life threating condition. Managing DF and TTP in the same patient becomes a real challenge to the clinician.

Case presentation

Fifty eight year old South Asian female with serologically confirmed DF presented with the evidence of plasma leakage, altered sensorium and gum bleeding. Laboratory investigations revealed anaemia, thrombocytopenia, schistocytes in the blood film and elevated markers for hemolysis with normal coagulation profile. Serum creatinine was raised and computed tomography of the brain was unremarkable. The diagnosis of TTP was made. She was managed with the standard dengue protocol with plasma exchange along with transfusion of fresh frozen plasma and blood. However she made a complete recovery and oral prednisolone was added a few days before discharge.

Conclusion

Both dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and TTP are potentially life threating conditions. Early diagnosis and initiation of appropriate therapy are major factors for successful outcome.

Key words

Dengue fever, TTP, schistocytes, plasma exchange