



Update from the Coccidioidomycosis Study Group

November 2011

Background

- 1956 Meeting held to discuss a study of asymptomatic coccidioidal pulmonary lesions in VA hospitals
- Location San Fernando VA
- Represented by VA physicians from Tucson, Fresno, Olive View, San Fernando, LA Center, VA area office
- Plus CE Smith (UC Berkeley), R Egberg (LA County Hospital)

History

- Evolution of annual VA-AF cooperative study
- Annual review of study progress

The Natural History of Coccidioidal Meningitis: VA–Armed Forces Cooperative Studies, 1955–1958

Tom Vincent, John N. Galgiani, Milton Huppert,*
and David Salkin

From the Medical and Research Services, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and the Department of Medicine, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona; and the Huntington Institute, Pasadena, California

From records on the clinical course of 699 military and veteran patients who had coccidioidomycosis before the advent of effective antifungal therapy, we identified 25 cases in which the manifestations of meningeal dissemination were described. Of 21 patients who had an identifiable initial infection, 16 developed meningeal symptoms (most frequently headache, vomiting, and nuchal rigidity) within the next 6 months. Associated pulmonary lesions were significantly more frequent in the right than in the left lung, as was also the case among 47 matched control patients who had coccidioidomycosis but not meningitis. Of 17 patients whose meningeal symptoms developed during the period studied, all died within 31 months. However, four of eight patients whose onset of symptoms preceded the study period survived for 55–146 months. Patients whose extrapulmonary dissemination involved only the meninges survived significantly longer than did those with more extensive infections. Even without therapy, the white blood cell count in cerebrospinal fluid markedly decreased during the course of the infection. The quantitative analysis provided herein offers a basis for meaningful comparisons with patients enrolled in current and future trials of therapy for coccidioidal meningitis.

CSG 2008-9

- Structure instituted to CSG
- Bylaws were written
- Board was elected
- Tony Catanzaro continued as President of CSG
- Treasurer, Secretary, Program Chair, Member at large, etc elected

Mission: CSG

- The mission is to foster the study of coccidioidomycosis
 - To promote the prevention of infection
 - To promote treatment of disease

Specific Objectives

- To encourage innovation and progress in the field of cocci prevention & treatment
- To encourage scientific research in cocci and its impact on humans & animals
- To establish & promote educational programs
- To provide unbiased, evidence-based information
- To establish a forum & structure within which academic & clinical scientists & physicians are enabled to enhance academic CME

Annual Meetings

- Every year in late March-early April
- Site rotates between AZ, CA and Mexico
- Competitive travel grant opportunity available
- Published proceedings
 - <http://www.vfce.arizona.edu/ResearchCommunity/CSGPublications.aspx>
 - 1980 forward
- All interested physicians & scientists are welcome

International Symposium

- Every 10 years
- 2-3 days
- Comprehensive update in science and clinical progress
- Published, bound Proceedings
- CME

2012 Annual Meeting

- Saturday March 24
- University of AZ, Tucson
- Topics
 - Epidemiology
 - Mycology
 - Immunology
 - Clinical issues
 - Most unusual case competition
 - Meningitis symposium

2012 Annual Meeting

- Social Dinner after meeting
- Abstracts compiled in the Proceedings of the Coccidioidomycosis Study Group
- CME (?)
- 1st notice-call for abstracts will go out in early December
- Mailing list: blair.janis@mayo.edu