

FATAL HEMOPHAGOCYTIC LYMPHOHISTIOCYTOSIS IN A POST-LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENT: A CASE REPORT

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Poster

Hepatobiliary

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A 30-year-old female who underwent liver transplant for acute liver failure developed fatal hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) on post-operative day 7, dying on day 16 from mucormycosis and septic shock despite treatment with high-dose steroids and etoposide.

KEY POINTS

- The patient presented with severe thrombocytopenia (8000/ μ L), neutropenia (858/ μ L), elevated LFTs (AST=473 IU/L, ALT=992 IU/L), ferritin of 2269 ng/mL, and positive CMV PCR on post-operative day 7, with bone marrow biopsy confirming hemophagocytosis.
- Treatment following HLH-2004 protocol with high-dose steroids and etoposide was initiated, but the patient's condition worsened, developing cutaneous mucormycosis that rapidly progressed to multi-organ failure and death on post-operative day 16.
- Only 41 post-liver transplant HLH cases have been reported in the literature, with only 5 initially diagnosed with acute liver failure, making this a rare and poorly documented complication.
- The speakers emphasize that HLH should be considered in post-transplant patients with unexplained cytopenias and hepatic dysfunction, as non-specific symptoms overlap with common post-transplant conditions, making diagnosis challenging and requiring heightened clinical vigilance.

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