Serum sickness-like reaction: case report

A 4-year-old girl developed serum sickness-like reaction following immunisation with dtap vaccine, measles mumps and rubella virus vaccine, poliovirus vaccine inactivated and varicella zoster virus vaccine. The girl developed a generalised urticarial rash and joint swelling 6 days after receiving dtap vaccine [DTaP], measles mumps and rubella virus vaccine, poliovirus vaccine inactivated [IPV] and varicella zoster virus vaccines [routes and dosages not stated]. Serum sickness-like reaction was suspected.

Hence, treatment with prednisolone was commenced and the girl was hospitalised due to worsening arthralgia and high fevers. Her lab tests showed elevation in the CRP, procalcitonin and ESR. Treatment with methylprednisolone was commenced that led to resolution of her symptoms. Based on her lab findings and clinical presentations, she was diagnosed with sickness-like reaction due to immunisation with dtap vaccine, measles mumps and rubella virus vaccine, poliovirus vaccine inactivated and varicella zoster virus vaccine and discharged with prednisone.