Refractory serositis in Gorham–Stout syndrome

Hong Di†, Bingqing Zhang†, Na Xu, Yue Yin, Xinxin Han, Yun Zhang* and Xuejun Zeng*

Abstract

Background: Gorham–Stout syndrome (GSS) is a rare disorder with various presentations and unpredictable prognoses. Previous understandings of GSS mainly focused on progressive bone destruction, while we identified a group of GSS patients with serous effusion as the first symptom. This study aimed to investigate the clinical characteristics of patients with GSS having serous effusion as the first symptom.

Methods: Patients diagnosed with GSS were identified through the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Medical Record System. The demographic, clinical, laboratory, and imaging data were collected. Patients who first presented with serous effusion were recruited into the serous group, while those with bone destruction were recruited into the bone group.

Results: Of the 23 patients with GSS enrolled, 13 were in the bone group and 10 in the serous group. The median disease duration was shorter and exercise tolerance was lower in the serous group. Despite less frequent bone pain in the serous group, the frequency of bone involvement was similar to that in the bone group. Patients in the serous group had higher rates of bilateral pleural effusion and multiple serous effusion. However, serous effusion also developed with disease progression in the bone group. Of the 17 patients treated with bisphosphonates, 14 reached bone-stable state. However, 5 out of 10 patients with serous effusion still had refractory effusions after bisphosphonates treatment. Three patients received sirolimus treatment, with an improvement in serous effusion. Seventeen patients were followed up; three patients died, two in the bone group and one in the serous group.

Conclusions: This study discovered that GSS could first be presented with serous effusion. We believe that this may be a new phenotype of the disease. Sirolimus might help in controlling serous effusion and improving prognosis.

Keywords: Bisphosphonates, Clinical characteristics, Gorham–Stout syndrome, Lymphatic malformations, Prognosis, Serous effusion, Sirolimus

Introduction

Gorham–Stout syndrome (GSS), is a rare and debilitating disease characterized by benign vascular–lymphatic hyperplasia and progressive osteolysis. It is also known as massive osteolysis, vanishing bone disease, or phantom bone disease. It occurs mostly in children and middle-aged people, and may affect multiple systems. This disease was first reported in 1831 [1]. Then in 1955, Gorham and Stout summarized the disease for the first time [2], describing the association between vascular–lymphatic hyperplasia and osteolysis. The etiology and pathogenesis of GSS are not well understood yet. Several hypotheses have been proposed, for example, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), interleukin-6 (IL-6), osteoclasts, and so forth are likely related to the onset of GSS [3–10].

Only about 300 scattered cases were reported worldwide, and the clinical scenario varied significantly. Apart from the typical bone destruction, serous effusion is also a rare presentation of GSS. Previous studies have focused on bone involvement and its complications, and the clinical data on serous effusion are rare. Therefore, this study aimed to analyze the clinical characteristics of patients with serous effusion as a first symptom.
from vascular–lymphatic hyperplasia, bone erosion was another main symptom, leading to pain and pathological fractures. Other reported symptoms included serous effusion, dyspnea, anemia, and abnormal coagulation. The diagnosis of the disease was difficult and might require a combination of clinical, radiological, and pathological features after excluding other diseases [11]. No standard treatment was available for GSS, and the prognosis varied across different reports. Some believed that the prognosis depended on the systems involved [12–14]. For example, patients with pleural effusion might have a poorer prognosis.

We found in recent years that some patients had refractory serous effusion as the main manifestation of GSS, and the incidence was significantly higher than that in previous reports. Even some patients had serious effusion as the first symptom, and the manifestation of bone destruction was more insidious. Therefore, in this study, we summarized the clinical manifestations, radiological characteristics, treatment effects, and prognoses of the largest case series of GSS in the existing reports to provide further knowledge of the disease and clues for future exploration.

Materials and methods
This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) and conducted in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

The PUMCH electric medical record system was searched using the following keywords: “Gorham–Stout syndrome,” “Gorham Stout disease,” “Gorham syndrome,” “massive osteolysis,” “vanishing bone disease,” and “lymphangiomatosis”; the time range was January 01, 1983, to December 31, 2021.

The clinical data, including patient demographics, clinical presentations, laboratory results, and pathological and radiological examinations, were collected. Bone destruction was evaluated using serum C-terminal crosslinking telopeptide of type I collagen (β-CTX) and total 25-hydroxyvitamin D (T25-OHD), bone mineral density, whole-body bone scan, and bone biopsy. Serous effusion was evaluated by chest and abdomen imaging and lymphatic imaging. The clinical data were assessed by two independent investigators after training. Different opinions were consulted with a senior supervisor.

The inclusion criteria by Heffez [11] were as follows: (1) positive biopsy findings in terms of the presence of angiomatous tissue; (2) absence of cellular atypia; (3) minimal or no osteoclastic response and absence of dystrophic calcifications; (4) evidence of local progressive bone resorption; (5) nonexpansive, nonulcerative lesions; (6) absence of visceral involvement; (7) osteolytic radiographic pattern; and (8) negative hereditary, metabolic, neoplastic, immunologic, and infectious etiology. Also, cases with unclear diagnosis were excluded.

The patients were divided into two groups according to the initial onset symptoms. Patients with the first symptom of bone destruction were recruited into the bone group, while patients with the first symptom of serous effusion were recruited into the serous group.

The disease duration was defined as the time from the onset to diagnosis; leukopenia was defined as the number of white blood cells less than 4.0 × 10⁹/L; anemia was defined as the hemoglobin level lower than 120 g/L in men or 110 g/L in women; thrombocytopenia was defined as the number of platelets lower than 100 × 10⁹/L; hypocalcemia was defined as the calcium level lower than 2.1 mmol/L; hyperphosphatemia was defined as the phosphate level higher than 1.4 mmol/L; the normal range of β-CTX was between 0.21 and 0.44 ng/mL; and the normal range of T25-OHD was between 8.0 and 50.0 ng/mL. The bone lesion was defined as the loss of cortical bone in the radiological examinations.

Follow-ups were carried out in outpatient clinics or by telephone, including the change in clinical manifestations, laboratory examinations, radiological examinations, and treatment after discharge. Stable was defined as no expansion in bone lesions and serous effusion. Progression was defined as the worse condition of bone lesions and serous effusion.

Statistical analyses
Statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 24.0 software (IBM, NY, USA). Continuous variables were reported as the mean ± standard deviation for normally distributed data or the median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed data. Normally distributed continuous variables between two groups were analyzed using independent-samples t tests, the median values between the two groups were compared using the Kruskal–Wallis test, and categorical data were analyzed using the chi-square test or Fisher’s exact tests. A two-tailed P value < 0.05 indicated a statistically significant difference.

Results
A total of 56 patients were found during the medical record search. Further, 33 patients were excluded due to acroosteolysis, generalized lymphatic anomaly, or unclear diagnosis. Finally, only 23 patients were enrolled into the study. Based on their primary presentation, 13 patients were in the bone group and 10 in the serous group. The detailed demographic and clinical data are shown in Table 1.
Among the 23 patients with GSS, 9 were male (39.1%), and 14 were female (60.9%); no sex-related difference was found in our patients. The average age at diagnosis and the disease duration were consistent with those in previous studies. The disease duration was relatively shorter in the serous group [1.3 (1–8) vs. 4.5 (1.29–22)] compared with the bone group, suggesting that the disease progression was more rapid in this group. The past and family histories were unremarkable in all patients.

In terms of general presentation, seven patients (70%) in the serositis group had decreased exercise tolerance, which was significantly higher than that in the bone destruction group (15.4%, P value 0.013). Besides, two patients in the serous group had dyspnea and two had anemia; the incidence of both of them was also higher than that in the bone group.

**Clinical symptoms of GSS**

Multi-modal imaging studies of the 23 patients showed that 12 had image-evidenced vascular–lymphatic malformation, 2 in the bone group and 10 in the serous group. Among the two patients in the bone group, one had

### Table 1: Demographic features, clinical features, laboratory parameters, and treatment of 23 patients with GSS

|                              | Total (n = 23) | Bone onset group (n = 13) | Serositis onset group (n = 10) | P value |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Age of disease onset (mean ± SD) (year) | 24 ± 11.7 | 24 ± 14.3 | 24 ± 7.7 | 0.855 |
| Male/female ratio            | 1.56          | 1.25                     | 1.1                           | 0.417   |
| Disease duration, [median (range)] (year) | 4.5 (1.29–22) | 1.335 (1–8) | 0.131 |
| History of trauma (N, %)     | 5 (22%)       | 5 (38.5%)                | 1 (10.0%)                    | 0.179   |
| Clinical features (N, %)     |               |                          |                               |         |
| Bone pain                    | 14 (61%)      | 12 (92.3%)               | 2 (20.0%)                    | 0.001*  |
| Skeletal deformity           | 3 (13%)       | 3 (23%)                  | 0                             | 0.229   |
| Pathological fracture        | 3 (13%)       | 3 (23%)                  | 0                             | 0.229   |
| Soft tissue swelling         | 4 (17%)       | 1 (7.8%)                 | 3 (30%)                      | 0.281   |
| Decreased exercise tolerance | 9 (39%)       | 2 (15.4%)                | 7 (70%)                      | 0.013*  |
| Dyspnea                      | 3 (13%)       | 1 (7.8%)                 | 2 (20%)                      | 0.56    |
| Involvement of skeletal system [median (range)] | | | | |
| No. of bone involvement      | 2 (1–3)       | 2 (1–3.5)                | 2 (1–3)                      | 0.771   |
| Involvement of vascular system (N, %) | | | | |
| No. of vascular malformations | 9 (39%)      | 1 (7.7%)                 | 8 (0.8)                      | 0.01*   |
| Serous effusion              | 13 (56%)      | 3 (23%)                  | 10 (100%)                    | 0.00*   |
| Pleural effusion             | 13 (56%)      | 3 (23%)                  | 10 (100%)                    | 0.00*   |
| Ascites                      | 3 (13%)       | 0                        | 3 (30%)                      | 0.068   |
| Pelvic effusion              | 4 (17%)       | 0                        | 4 (40%)                      | 0.024*  |
| Pericardial effusion         | 2 (8.7%)      | 0                        | 2 (20%)                      | 0.178   |
| Laboratory parameters (N, %) |               |                          |                               |         |
| Leukopenia                   | 1/23 (4.3%)   | 0/13                     | 1/10 (10%)                   | 0.435   |
| Anemia                       | 2/23 (8.7%)   | 0/13                     | 2/10 (20%)                   | 0.178   |
| Thrombocytopenia             | 2/23 (8.7%)   | 0/13                     | 2/10 (20%)                   | 0.178   |
| Coagulative dysfunction†     | 6/18 (33%)    | 1/9 (11%)                | 5/9 (56%)                    | 0.131   |
| Hypocalcemia                 | 7/23 (30.4%)  | 5/13 (38%)               | 2/10 (20%)                   | 0.405   |
| Hyperphosphatemia†           | 6/19 (31.5%)  | 5/11 (45%)               | 1/8 (12.5%)                  | 0.17    |
| Elevated β-CTX†              | 7/13 (54%)    | 1/7 (14%)                | 6/6 (100%)                   | 0.005*  |
| Reduced T25-OHD†             | 4/13 (31%)    | 0/8                      | 4/5 (80%)                    | 0.007*  |
| Treatment (N, %)             |               |                          |                               |         |
| Bisphosphonates              | 17 (74%)      | 10 (78%)                 | 7 (70%)                      | 1.00    |
| Sirolimus                    | 3 (13%)       | 0                        | 3 (30%)                      | 0.068   |
| Surgery                      | 9 (39%)       | 3 (23%)                  | 6 (60%)                      | 0.086   |
| Radiotherapy                 | 2 (15%)       | 2 (15%)                  | 0                             | 0.308   |

*Represents statistical significance
† Represents missing data in the corresponding variables
thoracic duct obstruction. Among the 10 patients in the serous group, 3 had thoracic duct rupture, 4 had thoracic duct obstruction, and 1 had diffuse lymphatic dilatation of the right pleura with local compression and stenosis of the thoracic duct.

Bone lesion is the most common manifestation of GSS. Figure 1a and b shows the typical osteolysis in GSS. The long bones were the most common site of involvement. The specific bone involvement in the 2 groups is shown in Fig. 2. A total of 14 patients (61%) had bone pain, which was significantly higher in the bone group (92.3%) than in the serous group (20%, P value 0.001). The average frequency of bone involvement evidenced by imaging studies was 2, which was similar in the two groups. With regard to the levels of serum markers, 100% (6/6) of patients in the serositis group had an increased β-CTX level and 80% (4/5) of patients had a decreased T25-OHD level, which were significantly higher than those in the bone destruction group (100% vs. 14% and 0% vs. 80%, respectively, P value 0.007 and 0.005, respectively). On the contrary, three patients (13%) had skeletal deformity and another three patients (13%) had pathological fractures in the bone group.

Serous effusion is the second common manifestation of GSS. Thirteen patients (56%) in our study showed serous effusion, 10 in the serous group (100%) and the other 3 in the bone group (23%). For three patients in the bone group, the time from the occurrence of bone lesions to the occurrence of serous effusion was 8 years, 15 years, and 7 years, respectively; two of them showed unilateral pleural effusion, and the other one showed bilateral pleural effusion. Among the 10 patients in the serous group, 4 (40%) had bilateral pleural effusion and 5 (50%) had serous effusion at 2 sites or more. Regarding the properties of serous effusion, eight patients (62%) had bloody and chylous effusion, four (31%) had pure chylous effusion, and one (7%) had pure bloody effusion. Figure 1c and d shows the obvious serous effusion in GSS.

In terms of the other manifestations for GSS, two patients in the serous group had localized intravascular coagulopathy (LIC), manifested as anemia, thrombocytopenia, and coagulation dysfunction, and also had recurrent and refractory serous effusion.

Apart from lymphoscintigraphy, 68Ga-NOTA-Evans Blue-positron emission tomography/computed tomography (68Ga-NEB-PET/CT) was conducted in three patients in the serous group who had refractory serous effusion. It could simultaneously and more comprehensively show the location of lymphatic abnormalities in bone, serous cavity, liver, spleen, and so forth. Figure 1e shows the increased uptake of 68Ga-NEB in femur, pleural effusion, and skin of one patient.

Treatment and prognosis

Of the 17 patients who received traditional treatment of bisphosphonates (BPs) and calcium agents, 10 (58.8%) were in the bone group, and 7 (41.2%) in the serous group. Bone pain improved in all 17 patients after treatment. One patient (5%) in the serous group had partial recovery of previous bone destruction evidenced by bone imaging, 14 (70%) were in stable condition, and 2 (10%) had worsened bone destruction during follow-up.

However, after receiving BP treatment, 50% (5/10) of patients with GSS still had recurring serous effusion, four in the serous group and the other one in the bone group. Sirolimus was used in three of the five patients in addition to BPs. All three patients had image-evidenced effusion recession, and the general conditions of the three patients significantly improved.

In total, 17 patients were followed up. Of these, 11 (64%) were in a stable condition, 3 (18%) had progression, and another 3 (18%) patients died. One patient in the serous group died of refractory pleural effusion and dyspnea even after pleural adhesion therapy. One patient in the bone group died of progressive bone destruction even after BP treatment. The other patient in the bone group died of unknown causes.

Discussion

GSS is one of the lymphatic malformations (LMs) [15]. Compared with other LM, GSS is characterized by progressive bone destruction; some patients also show serous effusion. This study was the largest single-center case series of GSS worldwide reporting the cases of 23 patients with GSS. It was performed on a group of patients with GSS with serous effusion as the first symptom.

The onset of age, sex ratio, and family history of our cohort were all consistent with previous reports. However, the disease duration was relatively shorter in the serous group than in the bone group. Despite no statistically significant differences between the two groups, the patients in the serous group had more rapid disease progression.

Bone pain is the most common manifestation of GSS. Bone pain was significantly less frequent in the serous group than in the bone group (20% vs. 92.3%, P value 0.001). However, the average number of bone involvement (median = 2) was similar in the two groups. The levels of serological markers of bone destruction (β-CTX and T25-OHD) were higher in the serous group, suggesting a more insidious bone destruction process in this group. Therefore, it was prudent to evaluate bone involvement in patients with GSS even without bone pain.
Fig. 1 Characteristic imaging findings of GSS. A and B Bone lesion (yellow arrows) of the left femur and the incrassated subcutaneous tissue (blue arrows) of the left hip on MRI T1 and T2 images. C and D Massive pleural and peritoneal effusion, respectively (red arrows), and the incrassated subcutaneous tissue (blue arrows) of the right chest wall on CT images. E Increased uptake of $^{68}$Ga-NEB in femur (thin, curved arrow), pleural effusion (thick, straight arrow) and skin (thin, straight arrow) on $^{68}$Ga-NEB-PET/CT. MRI, Magnetic resonance imaging; CT, computed tomography; $^{68}$Ga-NEB-PET/CT, $^{68}$Ga-NOTA-Evans Blue-positron emission tomography/computed tomography.
Previous studies reported that about 17–25% of patients with GSS also had pleural effusion [16, 17]. However, in our study, 54% (13/23) of patients with GSS showed serous effusion, 10 in the serous group and the other 3 in the bone group. Compared with patients in the bone group, more patients in the serous group tended to have bilateral effusion and more than one effusion location; also, patients in the serous group tended to have lower activity tolerance. Thus, patients with serous effusion would have worse quality of life. On the contrary, three patients in the bone group also had serous effusion during their disease progression. Therefore, clinicians should evaluate serous effusion during the disease follow-up. Further, we should consider whether patients with unexplained bloody and/or chylous serous effusion have GSS or other diseases of LMs for the early detection and diagnosis of disease.

The mechanisms of serous effusion are still unknown. Some suggested the association of VEGF, a vital factor in lymphangiogenic process [18–20], with the pathogenesis of GSS [3–6]. Some others reported an elevated plasma VEGF level, which decreased after treatment [10, 16, 17, 21–28]. In addition, increased plasma IL-6 levels might also contribute to the pathogenesis of GSS [7, 8, 10]. In our study, one patient in the serous group had a normal VEGF level, and two of three patients (66.7%) had elevated IL-6 levels. Our study found that patients in the serous group had more and severer lymphatic malformation compared with patients in the bone group. Thus, the serous effusion might be attributed to the severer lymphatic malformation.

Among 23 patients with GSS, 2 adult female patients had anemia, thrombocytopenia, and coagulation dysfunction (including low fibrinogen level, increased D-dimer level, and fibrinogen degradation products), leading to LIC. These two patients were in the serous group, and had voluminous and recurring pleural effusion and ascites. Their diseases progressed rapidly and were difficult to control. Anemia might be due to the lymph leakage (chylothorax and ascites) [29]. LIC was speculated to be associated with abnormal platelet activation by abnormal vascular or lymphatic endothelial entrapment. It was characterized by the elevation of the D-dimer level and fibrin degradation products, low levels of fibrinogen, and sometimes mild-to-moderate thrombocytopenia [30]. It could increase the risk of intralymphosional thrombosis and severe peri-surgical/procedural hemorrhage [31]. It was commonly reported in venous malformation, lymphatic-venous malformations, or other slow-flow vascular malformations, as well as in complex lymphatic anomalies (CLA) [29], but not in GSS earlier. These two cases suggested that coagulation should be carefully evaluated in the case of LIC and its complications for patients with GSS having refractory serous effusion. More attention should be paid to the coagulation-related indicators; once LIC occurs, one should be alert to thrombosis and severe hemorrhage.

Regarding the novel examination of 68Ga-NEB-PET/CT, in previous studies [32, 33], 68Ga-NEB-PET/CT revealed the structure of lymphatic vessels more clearly and comprehensively compared with 99mTc-ASC lymphoscintigraphy, and the imaging time was significantly shorter. Its 3D imaging mode was more sensitive to the discovery of abnormalities in the lymphatic system, which helped improve the sensitivity and accuracy of the examination. Therefore, it might play an important role in diagnosing and evaluating GSS.

No standardized treatment strategy is available due to the rarity of GSS. The traditional medicine therapy includes BPs, calcium, vitamin D, and so forth [8]. BPs could inhibit osteolysis by restraining osteoclast-mediated bone resorption. Previous studies showed that BPs or BPs combined with vitamin D could improve bone destruction in patients with GSS [34, 35]. In our study, the bone destruction progression was improved or steady in 88% of patients (15/17) after the treatment of BPs, and the effective rate was 100% (7/7) and 80% (8/10) in the serous and bone groups, respectively. Thus, BPs were effective against bone lesions in both groups. Severe bone destruction could be treated with surgical dissection, bone grafting (bone transplantation), or radiotherapy [36]. Six patients in our study had bone-related surgery combined with the treatment of BPs, and their bone structures remained stable after the surgery.

Despite the excellent efficacy of BPs in bone destruction, their effect on serous effusion is not satisfactory. Five out of 10 (50%) patients in our study showed repeated serous effusion after BP treatment. Pleurodesis, ligation of thoracic duct were reported with various effects.
sirolimus 1–2 mg once per day along with BPs. All three series, three (30%) patients in the serous group received sirolimus 1–2 mg once per day along with BPs. All three patients had controlled or reduced serous effusion; this incidence was significantly higher than the incidence in those without sirolimus combination therapy. Therefore, it was suggested that sirolimus might be effective against serous effusion in GSS.

The mortality of GSS reported earlier varied from 13 to 43.6% [34], depending on the severity of the disease. In our study, 3 of 17 patients who were followed up died, 2 (2/10, 20%) in the bone erosion group and 1 (1/7, 14%) in the serous group. One patient in the bone erosion group died of unknown causes. The other patient in the bone group developed serous effusion during follow-up and died of progression. The one patient in the serous group died of dyspnea.

Our study also had certain limitations. First, it had inevitable systemic bias due to its single-center retrospective nature with limited sample size. However, clinical instincts might still be valuable for clinicians due to the rarity of the disease. Second, patients still required longer follow-up to fully understand the disease progression. Third, this was a descriptive clinical study. Mechanical investigations of the disease, particularly the causes of refractory serous effusion, would be performed in the future.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we reported 23 patients with GSS to raise awareness of this rare disease. We also discovered that the disease could first be presented with serous effusion. Patients first presenting with serous effusion had shorter disease duration and more insidious bone destruction, we believed this may be a new phenotype of the disease. In addition, serous effusion might occur during disease progression and contribute to worse prognosis. Although BPs were effective in controlling bone destruction, the effect of BPs on serous effusion was not satisfactory. Other therapies, such as sirolimus, might still be beneficial against refractory serous effusion. Patients with GSS should be evaluated thoroughly and be followed up continuously for the early detection of the disease fluctuation. Further bench and bedside investigations of the disease would be required for better understanding of the disease and for improving the clinical management of patients.

Abbreviations

GSS: Gorham–Stout syndrome; CTX: C-terminal cross-linking telopeptide of type I collagen; T25-OHD: Total 25-hydroxyvitamin D; BPs: Bisphosphonates; Hb: Hemoglobin; Pt: Platelet; IL-6: Interleukin-6; ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate; CRP: C-reactive protein; LIC: Localized intravascular coagulopathy; LMs: Lymphatic malformations; VEGF: Vascular endothelial growth factor; PTH: Parathyroid hormone; mTOR: Mammalian target of rapamycin; MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging; CT: Computed tomography; 68Ga-NBE-PET/CT: 68Ga-NOTA-Evans Blue-positron emission tomography/computed tomography.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank all patients for their understanding.

Authors’ contributions

HD and BZ designed the study, performed data analysis and wrote the manuscript. HD participated in data collection, NX and YY played key roles in pathological analysis. BZ and XH helped optimize the research and proofread the paper. YZ and XZ designed and directed the study and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 82071841 and 81901667), the Clinical and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) Innovation Fund for Medical Sciences (CIFMS) [2020-I2M-2-009], and 2019 Discipline Development Project of Peking Union Medical College (No. 2019202010106).

Availability of data and materials

The corresponding author will, on request, detail the restrictions and any conditions under which access to some data may be provided.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study was conducted in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the Ethics Committee of Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Received: 25 January 2022 Accepted: 23 March 2022
Published online: 04 April 2022

References

1. Jackson JBS. A boneless arm. Boston Med Surg J. 1838;18:368–9.
2. Gorham LW, Stout AP. Massive osteolysis (acute spontaneous absorption of bone, phantom bone, disappearing bone); its relation to hemangiomatosis. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1955;37:985–1004.
3. Nagy JA, Vasile E, Feng D, Sundberg C, Brown LF, Dettmar MJ, Lawitts JA, Benjamin L, Tan X, Manseau EJ, et al. Vascular permeability factor/vascular endothelial growth factor induces lymphangiogenesis as well as angiogenesis. J Exp Med. 2002;196(11):1497–506.
4. Dellingner M, Hunter R, Bernas M, Gale N, Yancopoulos G, Erickson R, Witte M. Defective remodeling and maturation of the lymphatic vasculature in Angiopoietin-2 deficient mice. Dev Biol. 2008;319(2):309–20.
5. Morisada T, Oike Y, Yamada Y, Urano T, Akao M, Kubota Y, Maekawa K, Kimura Y, Ohmura M, Miyamoto T, et al. Angiopoietin-1 promotes LYVE-1-positive lymphatic vessel formation. Blood. 2005;105(12):4649–56.
6. Tammela T, Saaristo A, Lohela M, Morisada T, Tornberg J, Norrmen C, Oikie Y, Pajuola K, Thurston G, Sudra T, et al. Angiopoietin-1 promotes lymphatic sprouting and hyperplasia. Blood. 2005;105(12):4642–8.

7. Hirayama T, Sabokbar A, Itonaga I, Watt-Smith S, Athanasou NA. Cellular and humoral mechanisms of osteoclast formation and bone resorption in Gorham–Stout disease. J Pathol. 2001;195(3):624–30.

8. Hammer F, Kewen N, Wesselmann U, Hofbauer LC, Delling G, Allolio B, Arlt W. Gorham–Stout disease—stabilization during bisphosphonate treatment. J Bone Miner Res. 2005;20(2):350–3.

9. Rossi M, Buonuomo PS, Battafarano G, Conforti A, Aligeni M, Pelle S, D’Agostini M, Macchiaiole M, De Vito R, et al. Dissecting the mechanisms of bone loss in Gorham–Stout disease. Bone. 2020;130:115068.

10. Möller HGG, Priemel M, Werner M, Kuhlmeier A, Delling G. Gorham–Stout idiopathic osteolysis—a local osteoclastic hyperactivity? Pathology. 1999;20:177–82.

11. Leslie Heflez HCD, Barbara L, Carter, Feeney JE. Perspectives on massive osteolysis report of a case and review of the literature. Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol. 1983;55:331–43.

12. Hagberg H, Lamberg K, Åström G. α-2b interferon and oral clodronate for Gorham’s disease. Lancet. 1997;350(9094):1842–3.

13. Leslie Heflez HCD, Carter BL, Feeney JE. Gorham disease of the cervical spine—a case report and review of the literature. Spine. 2003;28(18):355–5.

14. D’opak V, Patel M. Gorham’s disease or massive osteolysis. Clin Med Res. 2005;3(2):65–74.

15. International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies: ISSVA classification for Vascular Anomalies. 2018.

16. Dellinger MT, Garg N, Olsen BR. Viewpoints on vessels and vanishing bones in Gorham–Stout disease. Bone. 2014;63:47–52.

17. Tie ML, Poland GA, Rosenow EC. 3rd. Cylindroma in Gorham’s syndrome. A common complication of a rare disease. Chest. 1994;105(1):208–13.

18. Karkkainen MJ, Haiko P, Sainio K, Partanen J, Taipale J, Petrova TV, Jeltsch K. CD133(+) monocytes in lymphangioleiomyomatosis reveal by (68)Ga-NOTA-Evans Blue PET/CT findings in lymphangioleiomyomatosis compared with (99m)TC-ASC lymphoscintigraphy—a prospective study. Orphanet J Rare Dis. 2021;16(1):279.

19. Liu Y, Zhong DR, Zhou PR, Lv F, Ma DD, Xia WB, Jiang Y, Wang O, Xing XP, Li M. Gorham–Stout disease: radiological, histological, and clinical features of 12 cases and review of literature. Clin Rheumatol. 2016;35(3):183–23.

20. Elera-Fitzcarald C, Ugarte-Gil MF. Gorham–Stout syndrome: a phantom bone disease treated with bisphosphonates. J Clin Rheumatol. 2020;26(5):e135–6.

21. Brodszki N, Lansberg JK, Dictor M, Gyllstedt E, Ewers SB, Larsson MK, Alitalo K. VEGFs and receptors involved in angiogenesis versus lymphangiogenesis. Curr Opin Cell Biol. 2005;17(2):68–73.

22. Morimoto N, Ogiwara H, Miyazaki O, Kitamura M, Nishina S, Nakazawa A, Eklund EA. A novel treatment approach for paediatric Gorham–Stout syndrome revealed by (68)Ga-NOTA-Evans Blue PET/CT. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging. 2020;47(10):2469–70.

23. Ricci KW, Hammill AM, Mobberley-Schuman P, Nelson SC, Blatt J, Bender JLG, McCuaig CC, Synakiewicz A, Frieden IJ, Adams DM. Efficacy of systemic sirolimus in the treatment of generalized lymphatic anomaly and Gorham–Stout disease. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2019;66(5):e27614.

24. Geeunickx M, Labarque V. A narrative review of the role of sirolimus in the treatment of congenital vascular malformations. J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord. 2021;9(5):1321–33.

25. Adams DM, Trenor CR, Hammill AM. Efficacy and safety of sirolimus in the treatment of complicated vascular anomalies. Pediatrics. 2016;137:1–10.

26. Leslie Heflez HCD, Carter BL, Feeney JE. Gorham–Stout syndrome in mainland China: a case series of 67 patients and review of the literature. J Zhejiang Univ Sci B. 2013;14(10):729–35.

27. Molino S, Pelle M, Grano M, Pogrel AM, et al. Gorham–Stout syndrome: a case series of 67 patients and review of the literature. J Zhejiang Univ Sci B. 2013;14(10):729–35.

28. Tilling GSB. Disappearing bone disease. A clinical and histologic, and clinical study. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1977;59:57–61.

29. Nakano TA, Zeinati C. Venous thromboembolism in pediatric vascular anomalies. Front Pediatr. 2017;5:158.

30. Liu Y, Zhong DR, Zhou PR, Lv F, Ma DD, Xia WB, Jiang Y, Wang O, Xing XP, Li M. Gorham–Stout disease: radiological, histological, and clinical features of 12 cases and review of literature. Clin Rheumatol. 2016;35(3):183–23.

Publisher's note
Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Ready to submit your research? Choose BMC and benefit from:
- fast, convenient online submission
- thorough peer review by experienced researchers in your field
- rapid publication on acceptance
- support for research data, including large and complex data types
- gold Open Access which fosters wider collaboration and increased citations
- maximum visibility for your research: over 100M website views per year

At BMC, research is always in progress.
Learn more: biomedcentral.com/submissions