

# **Febrile syndromes in childhood**

**• Clinical presentation**

**• Diagnostic approach**

**• Management**

**• Summary**

**• References**

# Fever - characteristics

- fever =  $T > 38.5^\circ\text{C}$ 
  - *Protracted*:
    - $> 5$  days
  - **FUO** (pUO):
    - $> 2\text{-}3$  weeks
  - *Recurrent / periodic fever*

# Really febrile?

- Objectivisation of fever:
  - Measurement technique
  - Fever:
    - Duration
    - Height
    - Dynamics (fever chart)

# Associated features

- Clinical symptoms
  - During fever
  - During afebrile interval
- Laboratory
  - During fever
  - During afebrile interval

# FUO

- **Infection**

- Anatomical pre-disposition
  - Congenital anomalies
- Functional pre-disposition
  - Immune deficiencies
    - Inherited
    - Acquired
- Unusual / aggressive pathogens
  - leishmaniasis, brucellosis, endocarditis

# FUO

- **Systemic malignancies**
  - ALL
  - Neuroblastoma
  - Lymphomas
  - Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

- **ALL - FBC**
  - ! surprisingly „normal“ WBC + high ESR/CRP
  - ! **profound anemia** (normocytic)
  - ! Normal/low PLT
  - ! CS administration dangerous
    - Initial BM aspirate may be normal...
    - Non-specific features: ↑ LDH, uric acid, ferritin
- **Neuroblastoma:**
  - Age group
  - Screening: abd US, bone scan, urine catecholamines
- General:
  - bone pain x mild or no objective joint findings

# FUO

- Systemic inflammatory diseases
- Autoinflammatory diseases

# Systemic diseases

- „Non-rheumatological“
  - IBD
- „Rheumatological“
  - Still's disease
  - Systemic vasculitis
  - SLE

# S-JIA – Still's disease

- **Arthritis** + fever or **fever** prior to arthritis  
+ at least 1 of:
  - Evanescent **rash**
  - Generalized **Lymphadenopathy**
  - **Hepatosplenomegaly**
  - **Serositis**



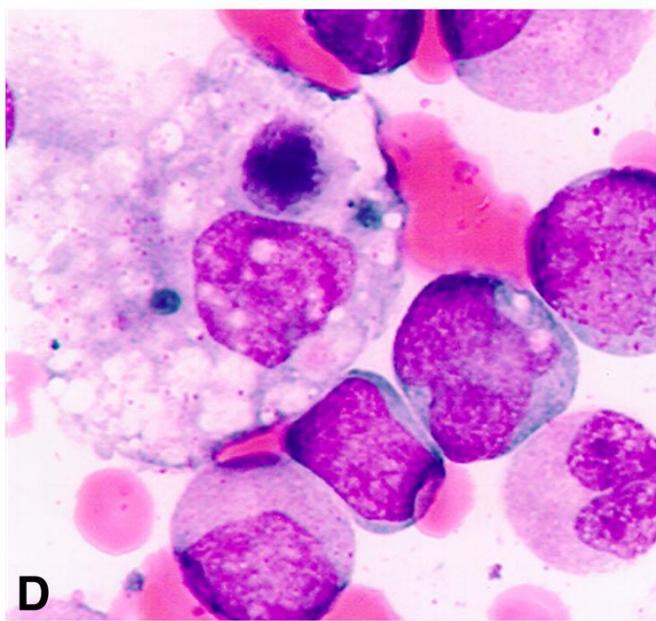
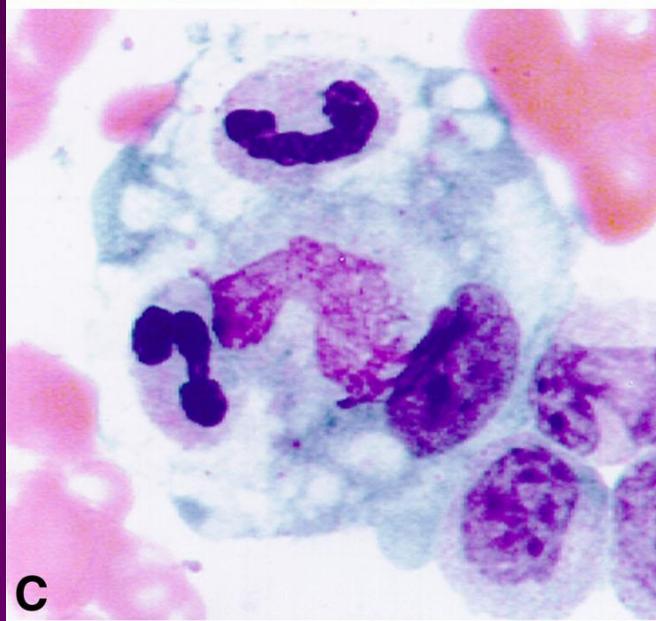
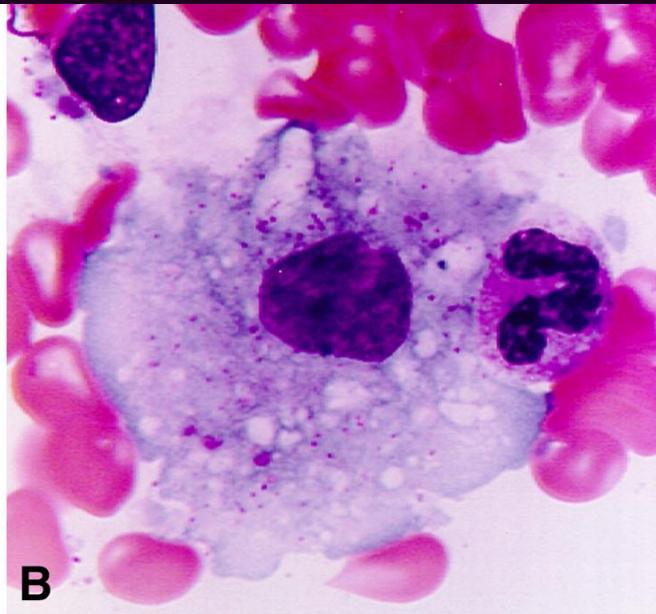
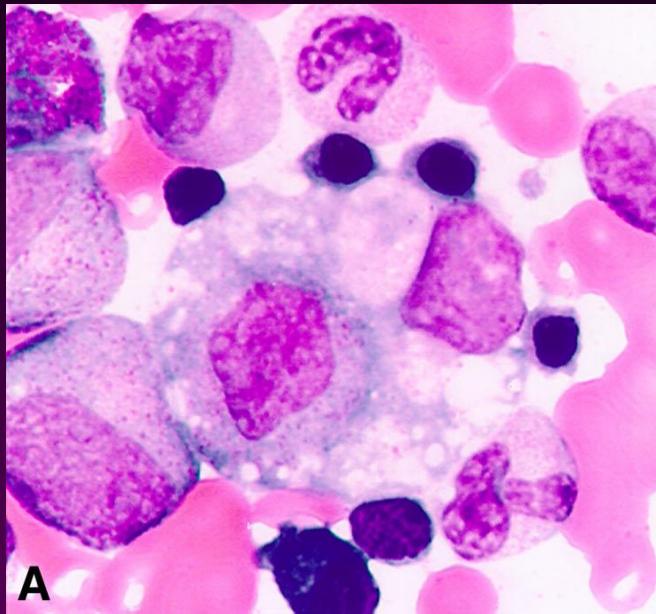
# sJIA - complication

- MAS: Macrophage Activation Syndrome
  - Life-threatening
  - Excessive proliferation and activation of T-cells and macrophages
  - Cytokine storm
- Reactive (secondary) lymphohistiocytosis
- In up to 7% sJIA (=10% JIA)
- KDDL: 8x sJIA, 1x systemic leishmaniasis
- **Main cause of death in paed rheum**

# Clinical findings

- **Change in fever pattern**
- General deterioration, petechie, neurological symptoms
- **Labs**
  - Decrease of ESR ang FBG
  - Cytopenia (hemophagocytosis)
  - Hepatopathy
  - Coagulopathy
  - ↑ ferritin ( $>10\ 000$  ng/ml), IL-18, triglycerides
- Multiorgan failure

# Bone marrow (HE $\times$ 1,000) Grom AA,2004



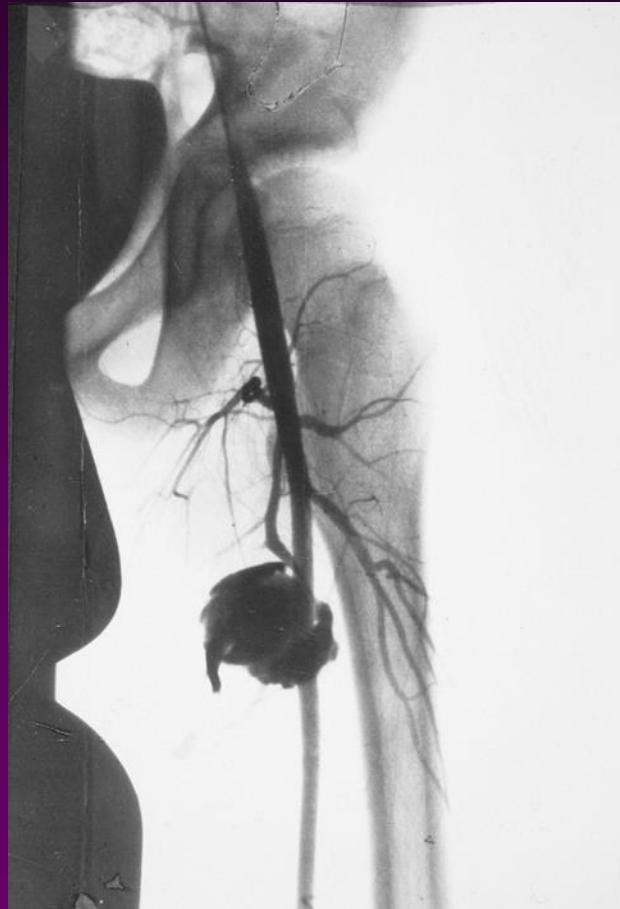
# Kawasaki disease

- **Fever** (100%)
  - > 5 days
- **A: conjunctivitis** (85%)
  - Bilat., bulbar, non-suppurative
- **B,C: mucosal changes** (90%)
  - Red cracked lips, strawberry tongue, oropharyngeal erythema
- **D: Lymphadenopathy** (70%)
  - Cervical, acute, non-suppurative, >1,5 cm
- **E: Rash** (80%)
  - Polymorphous
- **F,G: Extremity changes** (70%)
  - Palm and sole erythema / induration, skin peeling



# Large/medium vessel vasculitis

a



b



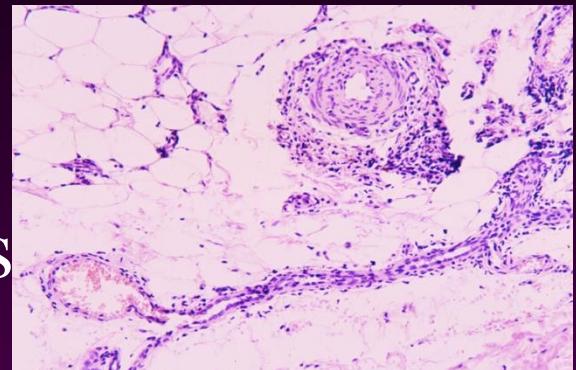
Systemic disease with

*necrotizing vasculitis on biopsy*

OR *angiography changes* + at least

2 from:

- Cutaneous findings
- Myalgia
- Systemic hypertension
- Mononeuropathy / polyneuropathy
- Renal involvement
- Testicular pain
- Vasculitis of other organs





SLE



# Autoinflammatory diseases

• Genetic disorders characterized by recurrent episodes of fever and inflammation.

• Inflammation is driven by the overactivation of the innate immune system.

• These diseases are often called "familial periodic fevers" or "autoinflammatory syndromes".

• Examples include Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF), Behcet's disease, and familial cold autoinflammatory syndrome (FCAS).

• These diseases can cause significant morbidity and mortality if left untreated.

• Treatment typically involves anti-inflammatory medications such as corticosteroids or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

• Early diagnosis and treatment are important to prevent long-term complications.

• Research is ongoing to better understand the underlying mechanisms of these diseases and to develop more effective treatments.

• Autoinflammatory diseases are a diverse group of disorders with varying clinical表现 and genetic etiologies.

• Some autoinflammatory diseases are associated with other systemic manifestations, such as skin rash or joint pain.

• The clinical course of autoinflammatory diseases can be highly variable, with some individuals experiencing mild symptoms while others have more severe, frequent attacks.

• Early recognition and management of autoinflammatory diseases are crucial for preventing complications and improving quality of life.

• Future research aims to identify new genetic risk factors and therapeutic targets for these diseases.

• Overall, autoinflammatory diseases represent an important area of medical research and clinical practice.

• These diseases are a reminder of the complexity of the immune system and the importance of understanding its underlying mechanisms.

• Autoinflammatory diseases are a testament to the power of basic science and translational research in improving human health.

• Autoinflammatory diseases are a reminder that there is still much to learn about the human genome and its role in disease.

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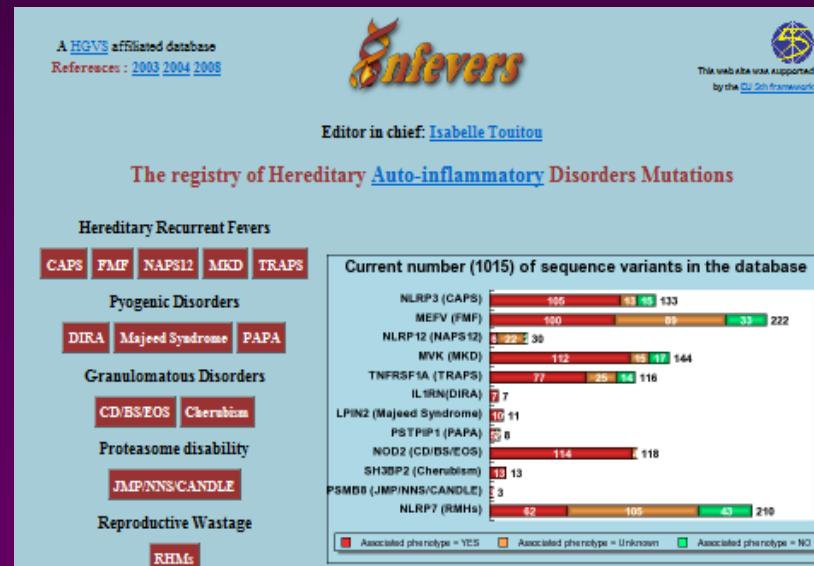
• Autoinflammatory diseases are a reminder that we must continue to support basic science and translational research to improve human health.

- ✓ General overview
- ✓ Monogenic fevers
  - ✓ FMF, MKD, CAPS, TRAPS
- ✓ Pustular dermatoses
- ✓ Granulomatous diseases
- ✓ Monogenic vasculitis



# „Autoimmune“ x „autoinflammatory“

- Dysregulation of innate immune system
- Recurrency / periodicity
  - Local and general inflammation
  - Asymptomatic intervals
- Early onset
  - Usually before 10 years
- Individual variability



**ISSAID**  
The International Society of Systemic Auto-Inflammatory Diseases

# Epidemiology

Toplak et al. *Pediatric Rheumatology* 2010, 8:29  
http://www.ped-rheum.com/content/8/1/29



PEDIATRIC  
RHEUMATOLOGY

## SHORT REPORT

## Open Access

### Periodic fever syndromes in Eastern and Central European countries: results of a pediatric multinational survey

Nataša Toplak<sup>1\*</sup>, Pavla Dolezalová<sup>2</sup>, Tamas Constantin<sup>3</sup>, Anna Sedivá<sup>4</sup>, Srdjan Pašić<sup>5</sup>, Peter Čižnar<sup>6</sup>, Beata Wolska-Kuñierz<sup>7</sup>, Miroslav Harjaček<sup>8</sup>, Mariana Stefan<sup>9</sup>, Nicolino Ruperto<sup>10</sup>, Marco Gattorno<sup>10†</sup>, Tadej Avčin<sup>11</sup>, Eastern/Central European autoinflammatory collaborating group for the Paediatric Rheumatology International Trials Organization (PRINTO) and Eurofever Project<sup>10</sup>

**Table 1 Genetically confirmed and suspected cases of periodic fever syndromes in ECE countries and estimated number of patients per number of children 0–19 years**

Periodic fever syndrome	Genetically confirmed cases	Suspected cases	Total	Estimated number per number of children 0–19 years*
FMF	11	49	60	1/465.500
MKD	14	24	38	1/771.400
TRAPS	11	16	27	1/1.080.000
CINCA	4	7	11	1/2.454.500

\* Adult patients were excluded from calculation.

FMF- familial Mediterranean fever

MKD- mevalonate-kinase deficiency

TRAPS- tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor associated periodic syndrome

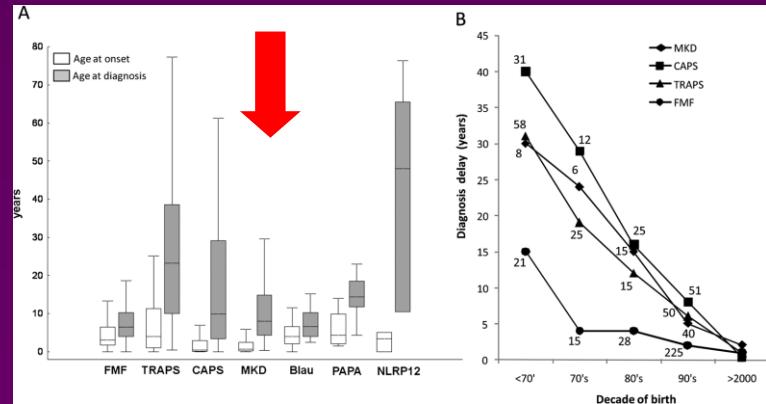
CINCA- chronic infantile neurological, cutaneous and articular syndrome

Downloaded from ard.bmjjournals.org on March 1, 2012 - Published by group.bmjjournals.org  
ARD Online First, published on February 29, 2012 as 10.1136/annrheumdis-2011-200549  
Clinical and epidemiological research

## EXTENDED REPORT

### An International registry on Autoinflammatory diseases: the Eurofever experience

Natasa Toplak,<sup>1</sup> Joost Frenkel,<sup>2</sup> Seza Ozen,<sup>3</sup> Helen J Lachmann,<sup>4</sup> Patricia Woo,<sup>5</sup> Isabelle Koné-Paut,<sup>6</sup> Fabrizio De Benedetti,<sup>7</sup> Benedicte Neven,<sup>8</sup> Michael Hofer,<sup>9</sup> Pavla Dolezalova,<sup>10</sup> Jasmin Kümmerle-Deschner,<sup>11</sup> Isabelle Touitou,<sup>12</sup> Veronique Hentgen,<sup>13</sup> Anna Simon,<sup>14</sup> Herman Girschick,<sup>15</sup> Carlos Rose,<sup>16</sup> Carine Wouters,<sup>17</sup> Richard Vesely,<sup>18</sup> Juan Aróstegui,<sup>19</sup> Silvia Stojanov,<sup>20</sup> Huri Ozgordan,<sup>21</sup> Alberto Martini,<sup>22</sup> Nicolino Ruperto,<sup>23</sup> Marco Gattorno<sup>23</sup>



## Comparison Chart of Systemic Autoinflammatory Diseases (SAID)

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<http://saidsupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/periodic-fever-syndrome-diagnostic-chart.png?c88512>

# Most common periodic syndromes

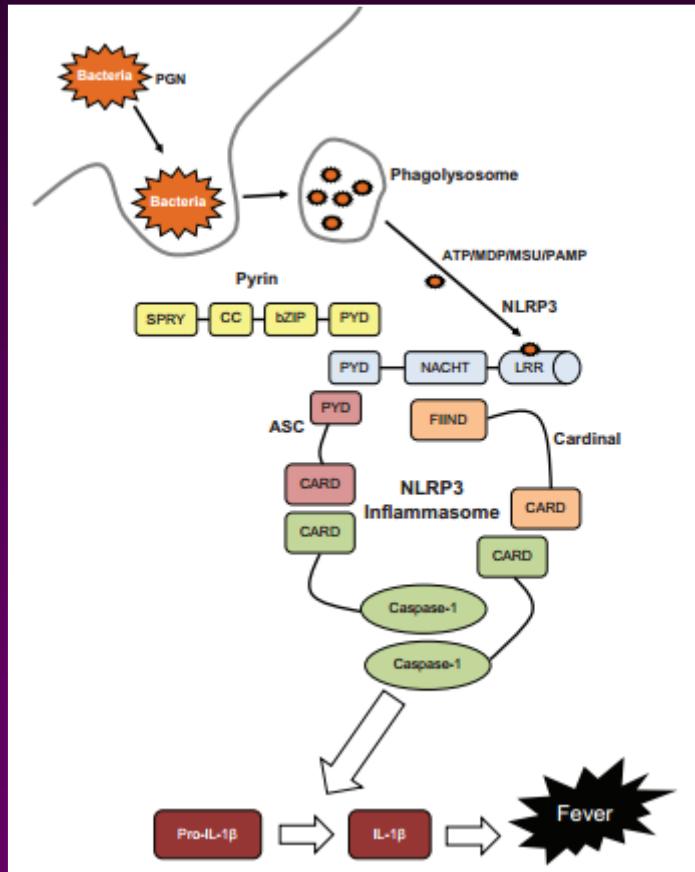
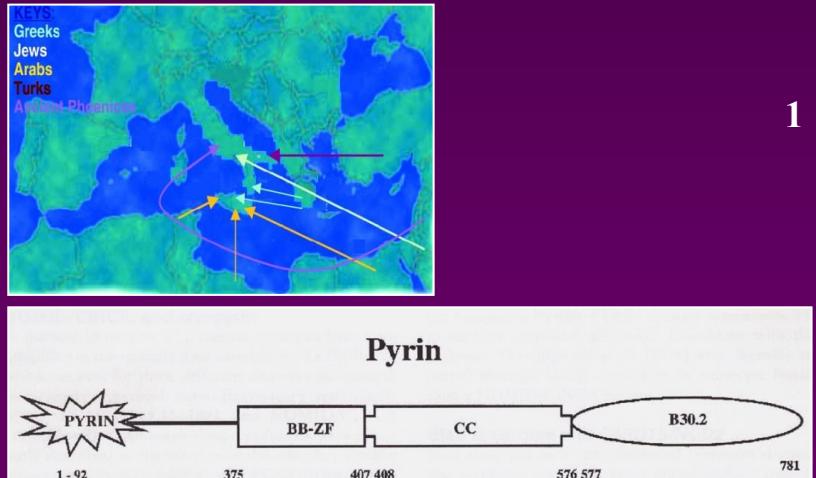
- *Non-hereditary*
  - PFAPA
- *Hereditary periodic fevers*
  - FMF
  - HIDS
  - TRAPS
  - CAPS

# **Periodic fever**

- Repeat episodes of fever lasting **days to weeks**
- **Asymptomatic intervals**
- **Hereditary and idiopathic syndromes**

# Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF)

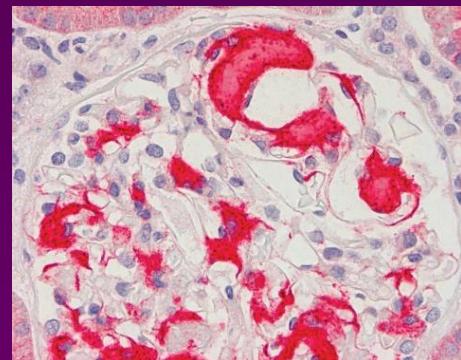
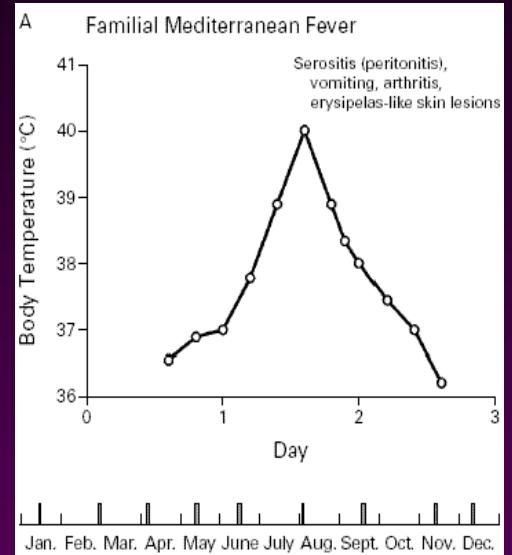
- AR inheritance<sub>1</sub>
- Ethnicity<sub>1</sub>
  - Jewish, Arab, Turkish, Armenian, Greek<sub>1</sub>
- Mutation of MEFV gene  
pyrin (marenostrin) 16CH<sub>1</sub>



1. Hull K. Et al. The expanding spectrum of systemic autoinflammatory disorders and their rheumatic manifestations. *Curr Opin Rheumatol*. 2003 Jan;15(1):61-9
2. Dickie L. Et al. Periodic fever syndrome and autoinflammatory diseases. *F1000 Medicine reports* 2010, 2:3

# FMF

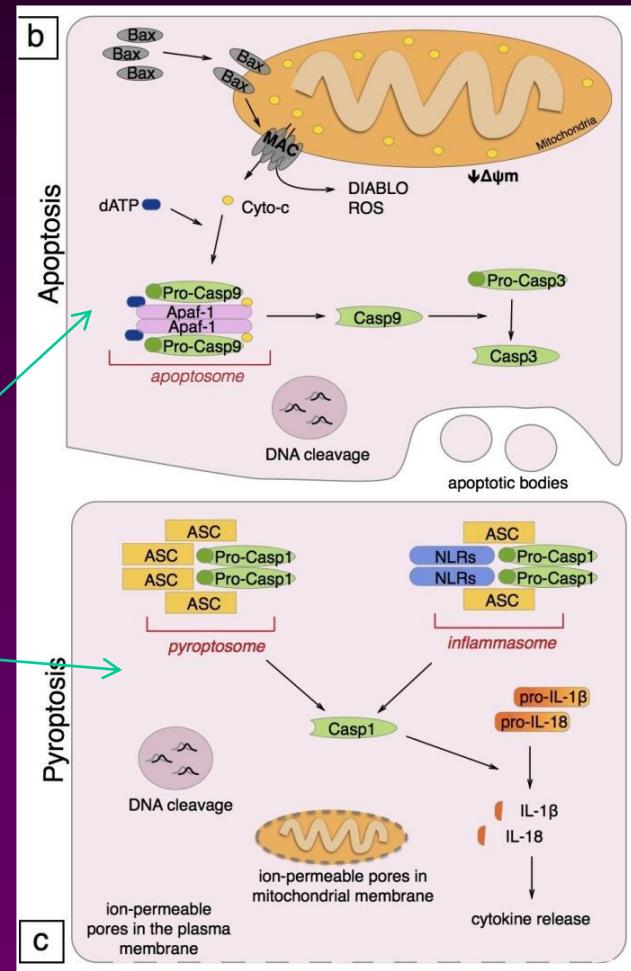
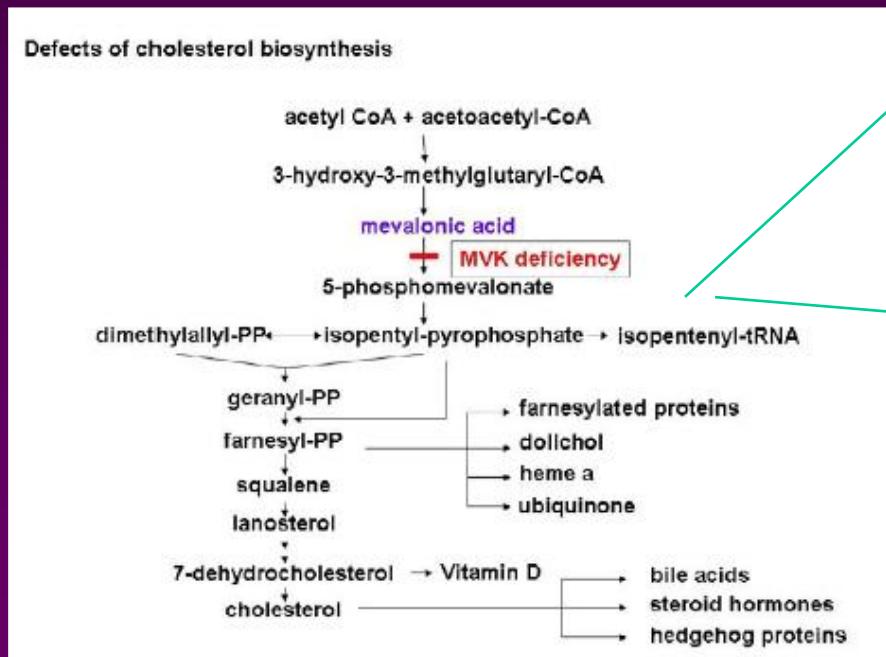
- **Most frequent PF, AR**
- MEFV gene - Pyrin/marenostrin
- **Short fever attacks** + serositis, arthritis, rash, myalgia, **AA amyloidosis**
- **Labs**: nonspecific inflammatory
- **Therapy**:
  - NSA
  - Colchicine
  - Blockade of IL-1



Kallinich D et al, ARD 2006  
Galeazzi M et al, CER 2006

# Mevalonate kinase deficiency (MKD)

- AR
- MVK gene mutation CH12q24
  - Decreased enzymatic activity



# MKD



## ***Syndrome Hyper IgD (HIDS)***

- Episodic fevers starting before age 12 months
- 4-6 days
- Lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, abd pain, rash, arthralgias
- Triggers common (infection, vaccination, stress...)

## ***Mevalonic aciduria (MA)***

- Psychomotoric retardatio, cereberal ataxia, kraniofacial dysmorphia, blue sclerae, cataract, hypotonia, maopathy

1. Hyper-IgD syndrome/mevalonate kinase deficiency: what is new?

Manders et al. Immunopathol (2015) 37: 371-376

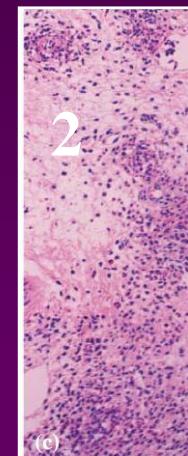
2. Mevalonate kinase deficiencies: from mevalonic aciduria to hyperimmunoglobulinemia D syndrome Haas et col. Orphanet Journal of Rare diseases 2006, I:13

3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mevalonate\\_kinase\\_deficiency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mevalonate_kinase_deficiency)



# MKD - Hyper IgD Syndrome (HIDS)

- Labs:
  - nonspecific + IgD, IgA, MVA in urine
- Therapy:
  - CS, NSAID
  - Anakinra
  - (Etanercept, tocilizumab)
- Prognosis: problematic



# TNF-Receptor Associated Periodic Syndrome TRAPS

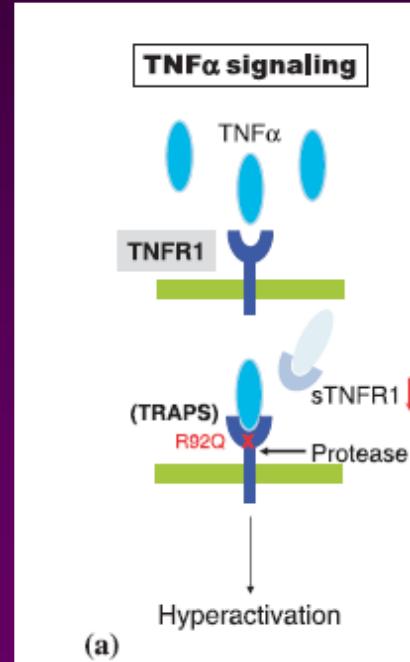
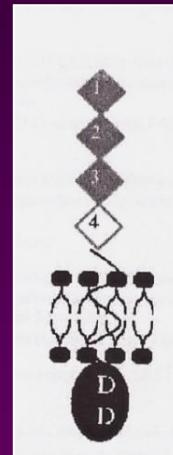
- **TNFRSA1 gene mutation**

- Structural protein change, accumulation of abnormal protein – IL-1 activation



- **Presentation:**

- Protracted fever for weeks, 2-6x per year
- **myalgia, ocular symptoms, abd pain, pleuritis, rash, arthralgia**
- AD inheritance



- **Labs:**

- Nonspecific, ↓ TNFR1

- **Therapy:**

- CS during attack
- Cytokine blockade (etanercept, anakinra)

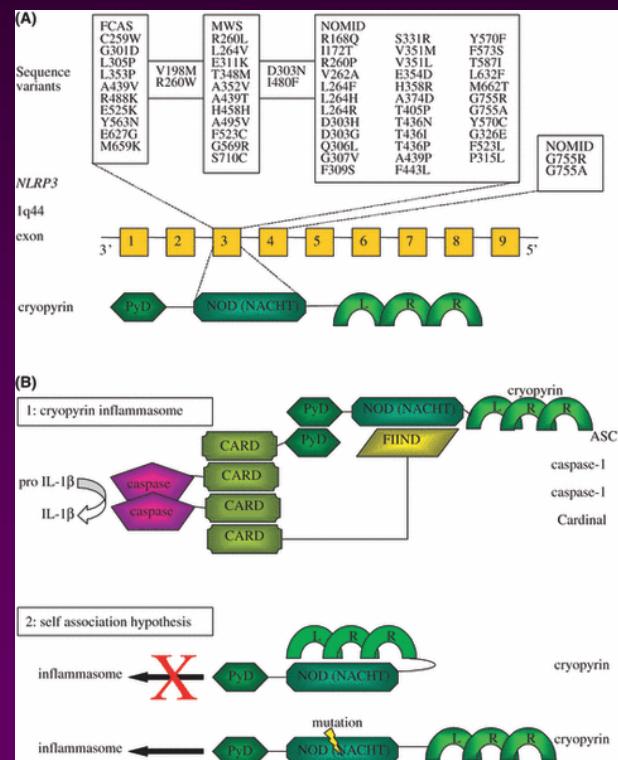
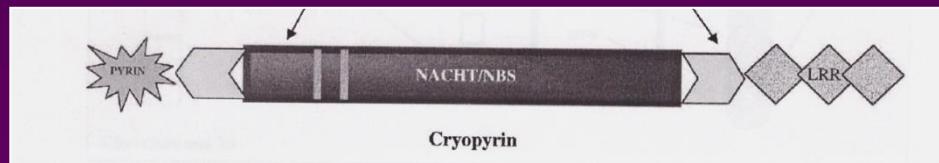
- **Prognosis:** risk of AA-amyloidosis (25%)

Kallinich D et al, ARD 2006

# Cryopyrin associated periodic syndromes

## CAPS

- AD
- NLRP3 gene mutation coding cryopyrin
- Regulates IL-1 production



1. Hull K. Et al. The expanding spectrum of systemic autoinflammatory disorders and their rheumatic manifestations. *urr Opin Rheumatol.* 2003 Jan;15(1):61-9
2. Lachmann H. Clinical immunology review series: An approach to the patient with a periodic fever syndrome. *Clin Exp Immunol.* 2011 Sep; 165 (3): 301-309

# CAPS - cryopyrinopathies

## Familiar cold urtica (FCAS)

- Cold induced
  - Rash
  - Arthralgia
  - Conjunctivitis



MILD

## Muckle–Wells syndrome (MWS)

- Rash
- Deafness
- AA amyloidosis ( 25%)



## NOMID/CINCA

- Sporadic
- Chronic meningitis
- Deafness
- PM retardation, bklindness
- Destructive arthropathy



SEVERE

- **Therapy:** Blockade of IL-1 (anakinra, canakinumab)

# AD familiar fevers ADPF

- Familial Cold Autoinflammatory Syndrome = (FCAS)
  - *AD, onset before 1 yr*
  - Cold induces non-itchy *maculopapulous* rash, in 93% with fever; conjunctivitis (84%), arthralgia (96%)

# ADPF

- **Muckle-Wells syndrome (MWS)**
  - Not cold-induced
  - often + progressive sensorineural deafness
- missense *mutation in CIAS1 gene* on ch 1,  
protein with pyrin domain

# **CINCA/NOMID:**

- Chronic Infantile Neurological Cutaneous and Articular syndrome
- Neonatal Onset MultiInflammatory Disease

# CINCA

- Specific phenotype:
  - Stunted growth
  - Saddle nose, prominent front
  - Variable CNS disease
  - arthropathy

# CINCA / NOMID



Therapy: IL-1 blockade lifelong

P ERIODIC

F EVER

A PHTOUS STOMATITIS

P HARYNGITIS

A DENITIS CERVICAL

# Clinical picture

- A thriving, healthy-looking toddler referred for recurrent unexplained short fever episodes
- History of recurrent antibiotic exposure for tonsillitis and high CRP
- Absence of positive throat cultures and other microbiology
- Antibiotics make no difference



- Regular episodes similar one to another
- Individually unique combination of features
- Absence of usual URTI symptoms (running nose, cough)
- Striking rapid response to single-dose corticosteroid
- Remission after TE

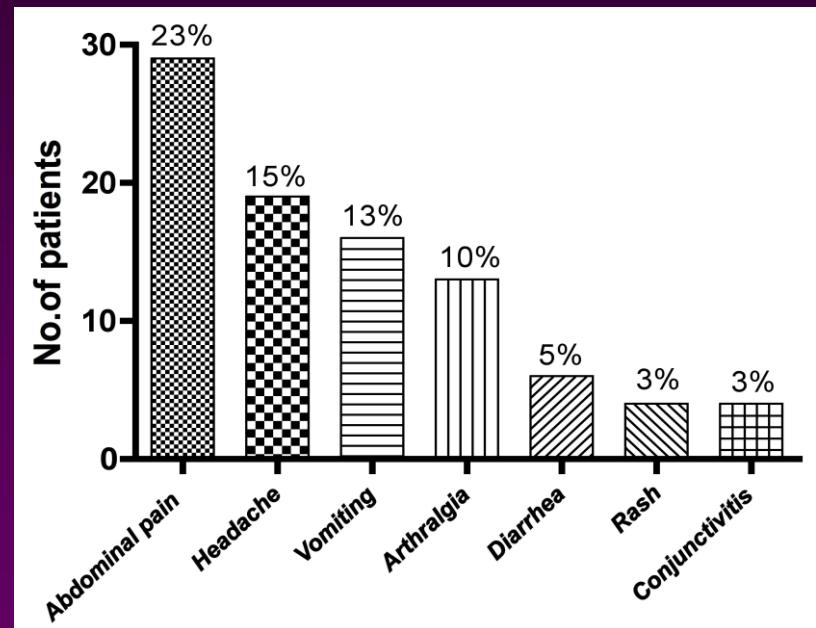
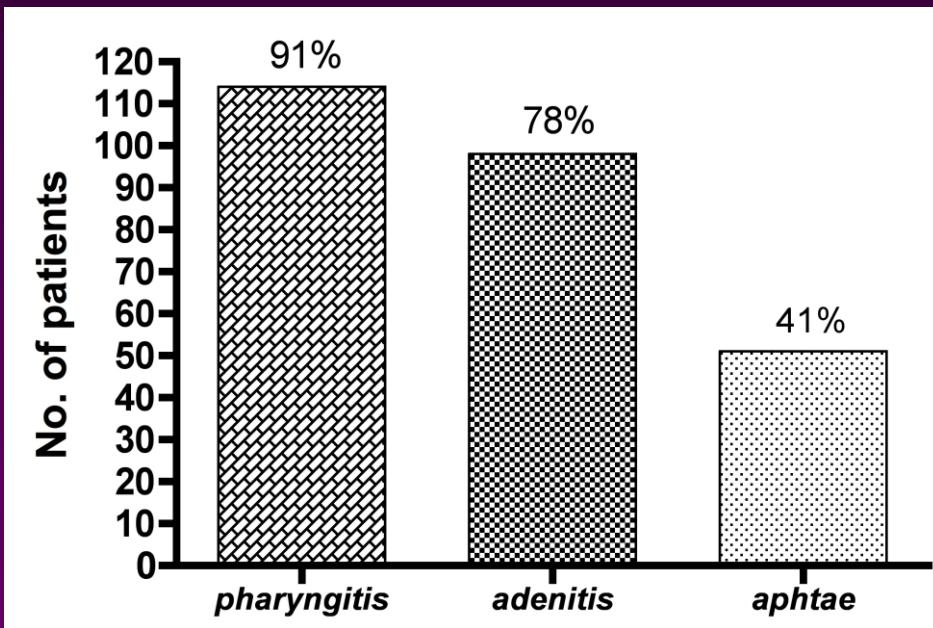
# PFAPA Diagnostic criteria

Marshall et al 1989, Thomas KT et al 1999, Hofer M, Gattorno M et al, 2008

- Regularly recurring fevers with an early age of onset (<5 years of age)
- Constitutional symptoms in the absence of upper respiratory infection with at least 1 of the following clinical signs:
  - aphthous stomatitis
  - cervical lymphadenitis
  - pharyngitis
- Exclusion of cyclic neutropenia
- Completely asymptomatic interval between episodes
- Normal growth and development
- (Exclusion of monogenic periodic fevers mainly in patients with GI symptoms and rash)



# Clinical symptoms



# **Therapeutic algorithms**

## **1. Watch-and-wait**

- No specific treatment, symptomatic therapy during febrile attack, avoidance of antibiotics

## **2. Prednisone**

- Single dose 1mg/kg up to 24-48 hours from onset

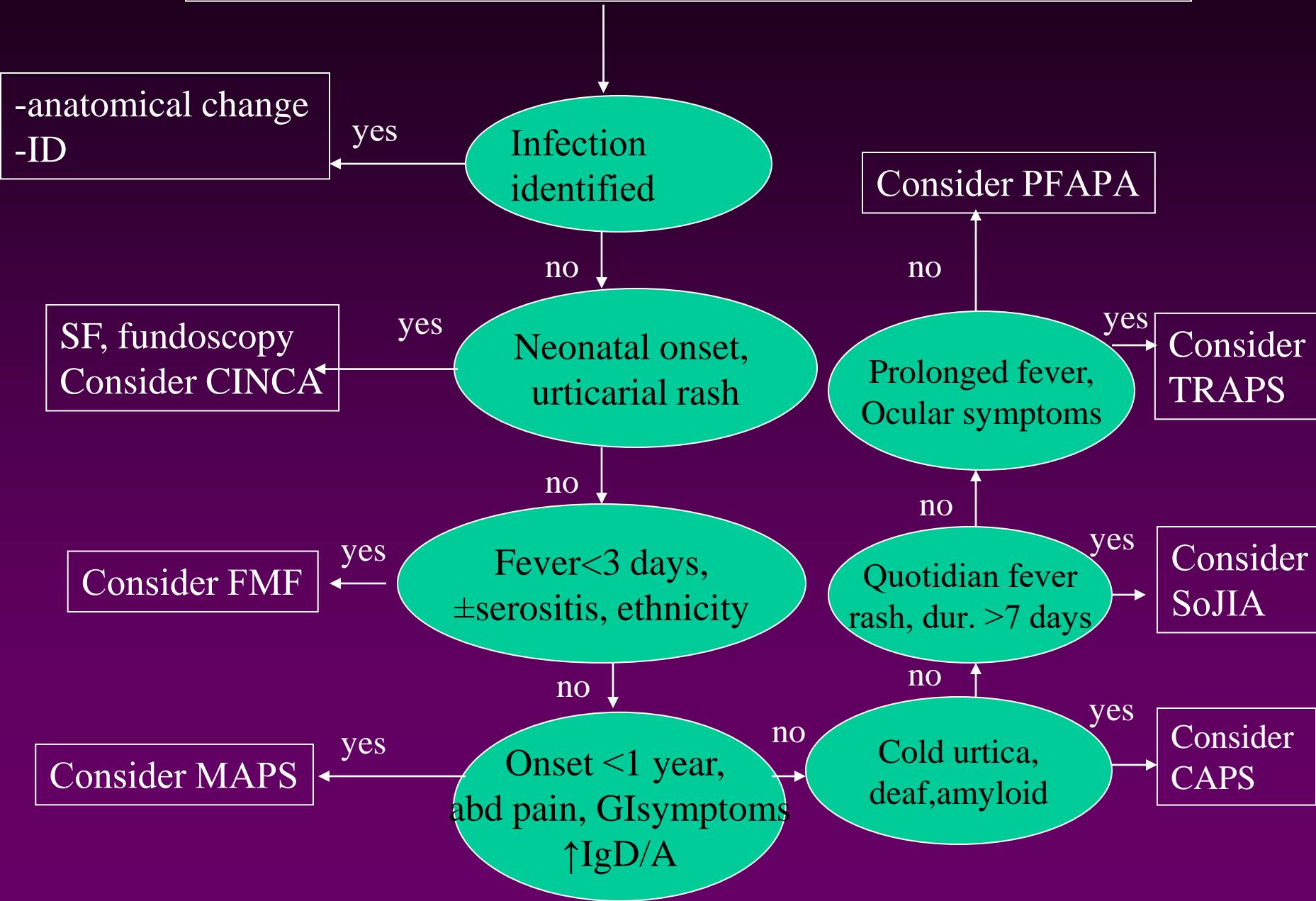
## **3. Second-line treatments**

- Cimetidin, Colchicin
- Tonsillectomy

# Conclusion

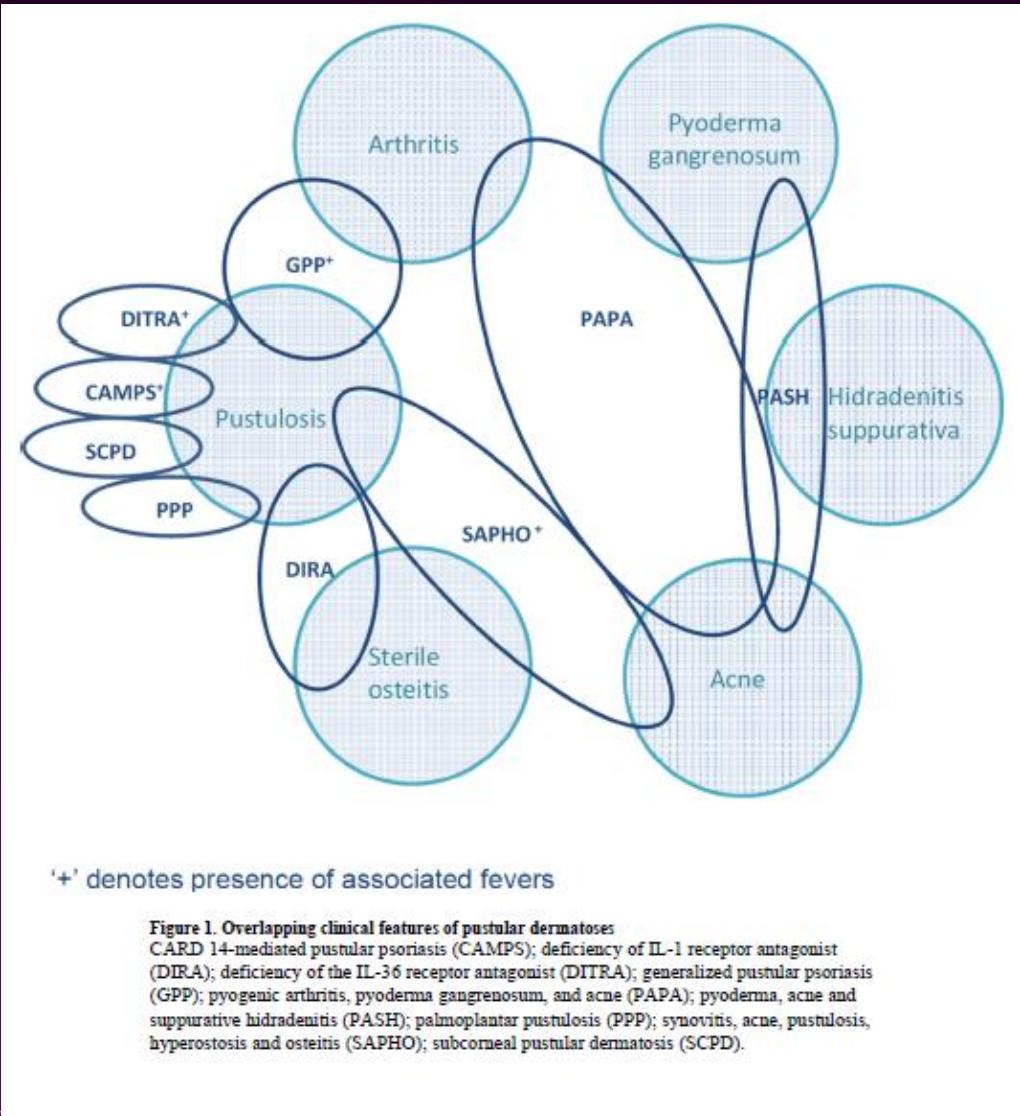
- PFAPA syndrome appears to be the most common periodic fever in Caucasians
- Significant morbidity, psychosocial and monetary impact
- Excellent prognosis
- Early identification and adequate management impact grossly patient/family quality of life
- Patient and primary care physicians education necessary

# Child with recurrent unexplained febrile episodes



# Pustular dermatoses

- PAPA
- DIRA
- DITRA
- CAPMS
- SAPHO
- PASH
- PAPASH



# PAPA syndrome

- Sterile destructive arthritis
- Cystic acne
- Pyoderma gangrenosum
- + Recurrent otitis media, lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, thrombocytopenia, hypergammaglobulinaemia, hemolytic anemia, T lymphocytosis
- Therapy – antiTNF<sub>α</sub>



1. Nalb H et. Al. Autoinflammatory pustular neutrophilic diseases. Dermatol Clin 2013 July; 31(3):405-425
2. Federici S. Et al. The autoinflammatory diseases. Swiss Med Wkly. 2012; 142:w13602



# DIRA (Deficiency of IL1RAntagonist)

- Episodic multifocal aseptic osteomyelitis, periostitis, pustular dermatitis
- Early onset (by 2 mo)
- No fevers
- ...lung infiltrates, thrombotic episodes, vasculitis
- Therapy – IL-1 blockade

2

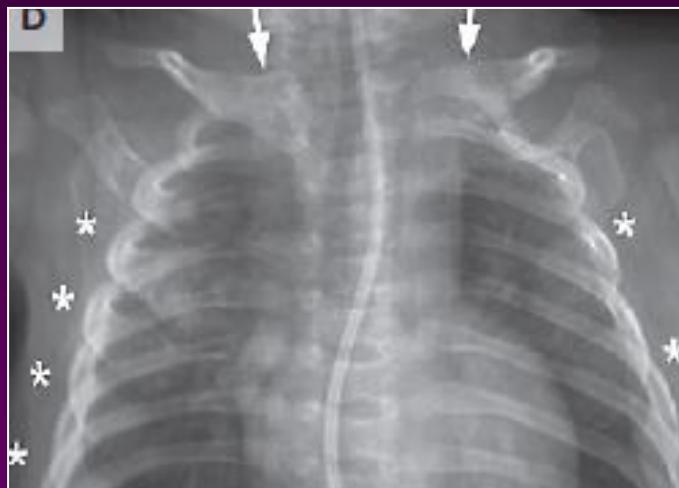


1. Minkis K. Et al. Interleukin 1 receptor antagonist deficiency presening as infantile pustulosis mimicking infantile pustular psoriasis.

Arch Dermatol. 2012 June; 148(6):747-752

2. Schnellbacher CH. Et al. Deficiency of interleukin-1 receptor antagonist responsive to anakinra. Pediatr Dermatol. 2013n November; 30(6)

## An Autoinflammatory Disease with Deficiency of the Interleukin-1-Receptor Antagonist



„widening“



„periosteal elevation“



„ballooning“



# DITRA (Deficiency of IL36r antagonist)

- AR
- Generalised pustular psoriasis
- Fever, malaise, weight loss
- No other organ involvement



- Therapy – IL-1 blockade

1. Touitou et al. The expanding spectrum of rare monogenic autoinflammatory diseases. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases 2013. 8:162
2. Tominaga CH. Et al. A case of ald age-onset generalized pustular psoriasis with a deficiency of IL-36RN (DITRA) treated by granulocyte and monocyte apheresis. Case rep dermatol 2015;7:29-35

# Blau syndrom/early onset sarcoidosis

- AD
  - NOD2 gene (CARD15) mutation CH16
  - Hyperactivation of NFkB<sub>1</sub>
- Polyarthritis
- Uveitis granulomatous
- Rash
- Variety of other organ involvement – less frequent in children



2

3

1. Dávila-Seijo P. Et al. Autoinflammatory syndromes for the dermatologist. Clinics in Dermatology (2014): 32, 488-501
2. Sanchez G et al. Monogenic autoinflammatory diseases: disorders of amplified danger sensing and cytokine dysregulation. Rheum Clin North Am. 2013 November; 39(4):701-734
3. Kanazawa N et al. Autoinflammatory syndromes with a dermatological perspective. J Dermatol 2007 Sep; 34 (9): 601-618

# Blau syndrome / EOS

- Skin:
  - lichenoid papules 1
  - Histology: nekaseifikující granulomy v dermis, panikulitida 1



## KAZUISTIKA

- Generalizovaný exantém od 3 měsíců ve sledování dermatologa (lichenoidní varianta juvenilního xanthogranulomu)
- Později pouze hyperpigmentovaná ložiska
- Od 2 let progredující hybná porucha a kloubní kontrakturny
- Diagnóza stanovena až ve 3,5 letech !!!!

# CANDLE (Chronic Atypical Neutrophilic Dermatosis with Lipodystrophy and Elevated temperature syndrome)



1. Dávila-Seijo P. Et al. Autoinflammatory syndromes for the dermatologist. *Clinics in Dermatology* (2014): 32, 488-501
2. Nguyen T. Et al. Autoinflammation: From monogenic syndromes to common skin diseases. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2013;68:834-53

# SAVI(STING Associated Vasculopathy with onset in Infancy)

- AD
- Mutation of **TMEM73/STING** gene
  - Coding for stimulator of interferon genes = interferonopathy
  - Early manifestation
- Cutaneous
- Vasculitic - polyarteritis
- Lung interstitial disease
- Myositis

