



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

MASTERCLASS

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
No. 6 Kildare St, Dublin 2

4.00 pm Wednesday, March 4, 2009

RCPI Masterclass Series 2008/2009
***Treating the Acutely Ill
Patient*** – Update and advances
in management of common medical
conditions presenting on call

**Part IV: Haematology
Session**



Welcome

Dr John Donohoe
President, RCPI

Dr Diarmuid O'Shea
Masterclass Series Convenor, RCPI



Dear Delegates,

In line with its mission to promote excellence in medical education and to support the advancement of the medical profession, we are pleased to welcome you to today's meeting – the ***Haematology session of the RCPI Masterclass Series on Treating the Acutely Ill Patient.***

The RCPI Masterclass Series – which will run over 7 sessions from November 2008 through to June 2009 – is aimed at keeping doctors up to date in evolving medical practice outside their specialty area and to facilitate their continuing medical education. The objective of the series is to help those who are at the front line of our health service to continuously improve their skills base, effectively facilitating excellence in patient care.

The series brings together medical experts from a variety of specialties under a central theme, provides a senior forum for peer discussion and has in the past attracted unprecedented numbers for Irish training. The entire series will be webcast live to 22 regional hospitals and will also be available as a recorded webcast via the RCPI's online medical education centre.

We would like to thank the programme organisers, Dr Karen Murphy and Dr Andy Hodgson and the speakers for their contribution to the programme and the series.

Each session qualifies for 3 CME credits from RCPI (21 in total for the series).

If you have suggestions for future topics in the series include them on the assessment form in your meeting pack. Alternatively, email your suggestions to us at helenmurray@rcpi.ie.

We hope you enjoy the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Donohoe'.

Dr John Donohoe
President
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diarmuid O'Shea'.

Dr Diarmuid O'Shea
Vice President for Education and
Professional Development
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER	CHAIR
15.30 – 16.00	Registration		
16.00 – 16.30	Haematological emergencies on call – what you need to know before the haematologist steps in	Dr Hilary O’Leary Cork University Hospital	Dr Karen Murphy St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin
16.30 – 16.35	Question and Answer Session		
16.35 – 17.05	DIC or not DIC – common coagulation problems presenting on call	Dr Niamh O’Connell AMNCH, Tallaght, Dublin	
17.05 – 17.10	Question and Answer Session		
17.10 – 17.40	Blood transfusion problems	Dr Joan Fitzgerald Irish Blood Transfusion Centre, Dublin	
17.40 – 17.45	Question and Answer Session		
17.45 – 18.00	Refreshments		
18.00 – 18.30	Reversal of warfarin	Dr Gerard Crotty Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore	Dr Karen Murphy St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin
18.30 – 18.35	Question and Answer Session		
18.35 – 19.05	DVT/PE	Dr Susan O’Shea Cork University Hospital	
19.05 – 19.10	Question and Answer Session		
19.10 – 19.30	Panel Discussion		

Dr Karen Murphy
St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin



Dr Murphy will chair session 1 & 2

Karen Murphy is a graduate of University College Cork. Her formative years as a Haematology Registrar were in Cork University Hospital and the Mercy Hospital.

She subsequently became Bone Marrow Transplant Co-ordinator in the Hammersmith Hospital London. Thereafter Dr Murphy was a Senior Registrar in the Thrombosis and Haemostasis unit in the Royal Free

Hospital before being appointed Locum Consultant Haematologist in the Royal Free Hospital, Haemostasis and Thrombosis Unit.

She was appointed Consultant Haematologist to St Vincent’s Hospital Group and National Maternity Hospital in January 1999 and has a sub speciality interest in Haemostasis and Thrombosis and Obstetric Haematology.

This meeting is approved for 3 CME credits by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Session 1

16.00 – 16.30

Haematological emergencies on call –
What you need to know before the
haematologist steps in

Dr Hilary O'Leary,
Cork University Hospital



Biographical Sketch

Hilary O'Leary qualified from the National University of Ireland, Galway in 1996. She completed general professional training on the SHO training scheme in General Internal Medicine at Cork University Hospital and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1999. Thereafter, she spent a year as a medical registrar in General Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Cork University Hospital. She joined the Irish Higher Medical Training Programme in Haematology in 2000 and became a member of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2006. She travelled to Vancouver, British Columbia (BC) in July 2006 to complete a clinical fellowship with the Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant Program of BC at Vancouver General Hospital. She won an Irish Haematology Society educational grant to spend an additional year in Vancouver as lymphoma fellow with the Lymphoma Tumour Group in the BC Cancer Agency. Her research in Vancouver focused on peripheral T-cell lymphomas and the efficacy of allogeneic stem cell transplant in this group of disorders.

Dr O'Leary is currently completing her research with the BC Lymphoma Tumour Group and is working as a temporary Consultant Haematologist at Cork University Hospital. Her field of interest is lymphoproliferative disorders.

Overview of Presentation

Dr O'Leary will outline the acute management of haematological emergencies, including hyperviscosity syndrome, tumour lysis syndrome and

neutropenic sepsis, with reference to illustrative case histories and current guidelines.

16.35 – 17.05

DIC or not DIC – common coagulation
problems presenting on call

Dr Niamh O'Connell,
AMNCH, Tallaght, Dublin



Biographical Sketch

Niamh O'Connell graduated from University College Cork in 1994. On completion of clinical training in Ireland as a Specialist Registrar in Haematology, she subsequently spent three years in the Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit at the Royal Free Hospital London as a Clinical Research Fellow. During her time at the Royal Free, Dr O'Connell undertook a study of the molecular and haemostatic factors that influence the variability of the bleeding tendency in Factor XI deficiency. She also investigated the use of recombinant factor VIIa to prevent bleeding after surgery in patients with factor XI deficiency and in the settling of massive haemorrhage. Since returning to Ireland to take up the post of Consultant Haematologist in The Adelaide and Meath Hospital in 2004. Her research interests are in the area of Thrombosis and Haemostasis including Thrombin Activatable Fibrinolysis Inhibitor, polymorphisms influencing the response to anticoagulant therapy and mutations causing Macrothrombocytopenia. Working in a busy Haematology department in a large Academic Teaching Hospital inevitably presents many clinical opportunities to consider the question "DIC or not DIC"!

Overview of Presentation

Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) is a clinicopathological syndrome which may complicate a wide spectrum of clinical disorders. Clinical manifestations of DIC vary from asymptomatic abnormalities in coagulation screening tests to catastrophic activation of coagulation with organ failure due to widespread microvascular coagulation and bleeding due to consumption of coagulation factors and platelets.

There is no single diagnostic test and serial evaluations are recommended. The treatment of DIC is primarily that of the underlying condition but guidelines will be presented regarding the management of bleeding, thrombosis and invasive procedures in patients with evidence of DIC. In certain specific settings, the use of anticoagulant factor concentrates or recombinant factor VIIa may be indicated.

Session 1

17.10 – 17.40

Blood transfusion problems

Dr Joan Fitzgerald
Irish Blood Transfusion Centre, Dublin



Biographical Sketch

Joan Fitzgerald is currently working as a Consultant Haematologist with the Irish Blood Transfusion Service and St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin. She is responsible for the clinical direction of the Therapeutic Apheresis Service, Immunohaematology Reference and Donation Grouping laboratories within the IBTS and oversees Clinical Transfusion Practice, Haemovigilance and Blood Transfusion Audit within St Vincent's Hospital.

Special interests include investigation, management and prevention of alloimmune diseases of the fetus/newborn (HDN & NAIT), transfusion of patients with complex antibodies and auto immune haemolytic anaemia and development of molecular testing of blood group antigens.

Overview of Presentation

When a patient becomes unwell during or following a blood transfusion the differential includes reaction due to the blood component being transfused and exacerbation of underlying condition or new disease complication. Voluntary reporting of transfusion complications through the haemovigilance system was introduced in Ireland in 1999 but with the advent of European Blood Directive we are now legally required to report all serious adverse events and reactions related to blood transfusion to the Competent Authority (Irish Medicines

Board). Therefore the application of the correct imputability level (degree to which the patient's symptoms were deemed directly related to the blood component transfused) to the event is most important. This presentation will include clinical scenarios to illustrate the complexities involved in such cases and also will provide some background information on the investigation and management of reactions involved. A further case will be presented on the difficulties that arise when patients present with antibodies and require blood urgently.

Session 2

18.00 – 18.30

Reversal of warfarin

Dr Gerard Crotty
Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore



Biographical Sketch

Gerard Crotty is a Consultant Haematologist based at Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore. He also covers the Midland Regional Hospitals at Portlaoise and Mullingar and has a sessional link with St James's Hospital. He is a general haematologist, with interests in several of the low grade haematology malignancies, coagulation, haemovigilance and hospital management. When four factor prothrombin complex concentrate became available in Ireland he introduced a regional policy on the appropriate management of reversal of warfarin, which some other regions have used as a template. Clinical audit has confirmed the efficacy of the approach.

Overview of Presentation

Acquired coagulopathies are the common type of coagulation problems facing hospital doctors, and those caused by anticoagulant drugs the largest group. The need to reverse warfarin is a very common clinical problem, either because of excessive anticoagulation, sometimes resulting in bleeding, or in some cases because of a bleed or need for an invasive procedure in a patient with therapeutic INR results.

The therapeutic agents involved are vitamin K, and various blood components and products. The general principles include: the need to avoid the use of blood products unless they are genuinely necessary; and where they are needed, to use the most specific blood product available

for the purpose. Fortunately four factor prothrombin concentrates are available for this purpose and in combination with vitamin K provide a highly efficacious way to reverse warfarin in urgent cases. The slow onset of warfarin effect combined with the unpredictable dose requirements are definite disadvantages of this type of anticoagulant therapy. However, the slow offset of action may not be a disadvantage when combined with knowledge by the practitioner of the method of reversal, which is promptly effective when required, or alternatively is effective after a delay in non urgent cases where blood products use can be avoided. The management of patients who are Jehovah's Witnesses will also be discussed.

Session 2

18.35 – 19.05

DVT/PE

Dr Susan O'Shea
Cork University Hospital



Biographical Sketch

Dr Susan O'Shea is a Consultant Haematologist in Cork University Hospital, with a specific interest in Haemostasis and Thrombosis. She is a graduate of University College Cork and completed both General Medical and Haematology Speciality Training in Duke University Medical Centre in North Carolina, USA. She was a Consultant Haematologist in Duke University until returning to Ireland. Dr O'Shea has a particular interest in the development of point of care testing in Ireland and the management of Anticoagulation Services.

Overview of Presentation

Dr O'Shea will discuss issues relating to venous thrombosis, including acute management, the role for thrombolytic therapy, thrombophilia testing, duration of

therapy following a thrombotic event and options for management of the patient following the acute event.

UPCOMING SESSIONS in the *RCPI Masterclass Series. Treating the Acutely Ill Patient 2008/2009*

Part V:	Rheumatology Session	April 1, 2009	4.00 – 7.30 pm
Part VI:	Cardiology Session	May 6, 2009	4.00 – 7.30 pm
Part VII:	Medical Neurology Session	June 3, 2009	4.00 – 7.30 pm