


THE DIAGNOSTIC ODYSSEY FOR  
INDIVIDUALS WITH RARE DISEASES:  
KAPOSIFORM LYMPHANGIOMATOSIS AND  
OTHER LYMPHATIC CONDITIONS

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1

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this educational activity, participants should be able to:

- Describe the diagnostic journey for individuals with kaposiform lymphangiomatosis (KLA) and other lymphatic conditions.
- Explain emerging diagnostic tools and therapies, including clinical trials for KLA and other lymphatic conditions.
- Discuss challenges and barriers in the diagnosis and treatment of KLA as well as the associated physical and mental health issues.
- Incorporate individual and caregiver engagement in shared decision-making.
- Summarize interprofessional team strategies for improving coordination and communication to support the well-being of both the individual and their family/caregiver(s).

2

OUTLINE

- Comprehensive Vascular Anomalies Program (CVAP)
- Classification of Vascular Anomalies
- A Patient Story
- Complicated Lymphatic Anomalies
- Lessons Learned: The Power of One
- Genotype/Phenotype Discoveries
- Collaboration

3

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3

COMPREHENSIVE VASCULAR ANOMALIES PROGRAM (CVAP) TEAM



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**Director of CVAP, Co-Director of CVA Frontier Program**



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Clinical Research Assistant



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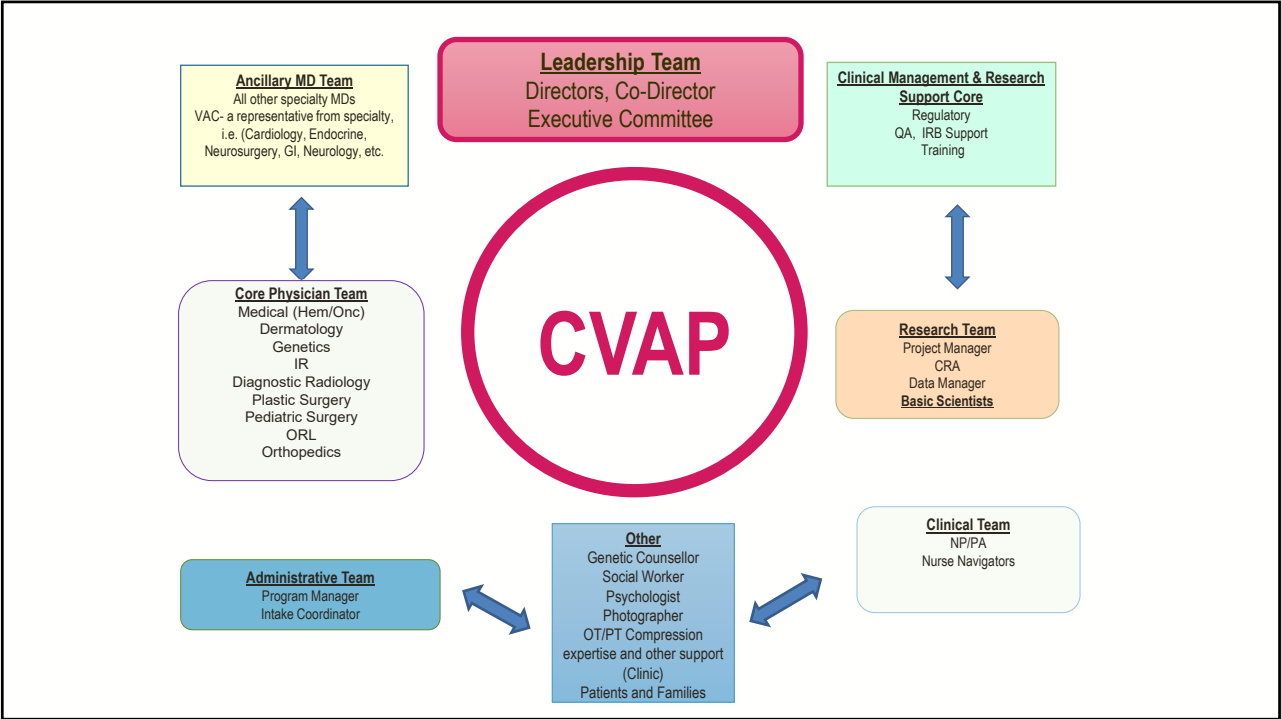
Asia Sibert-el  
Complex Scheduler

Pablo Laje (General Surgery)

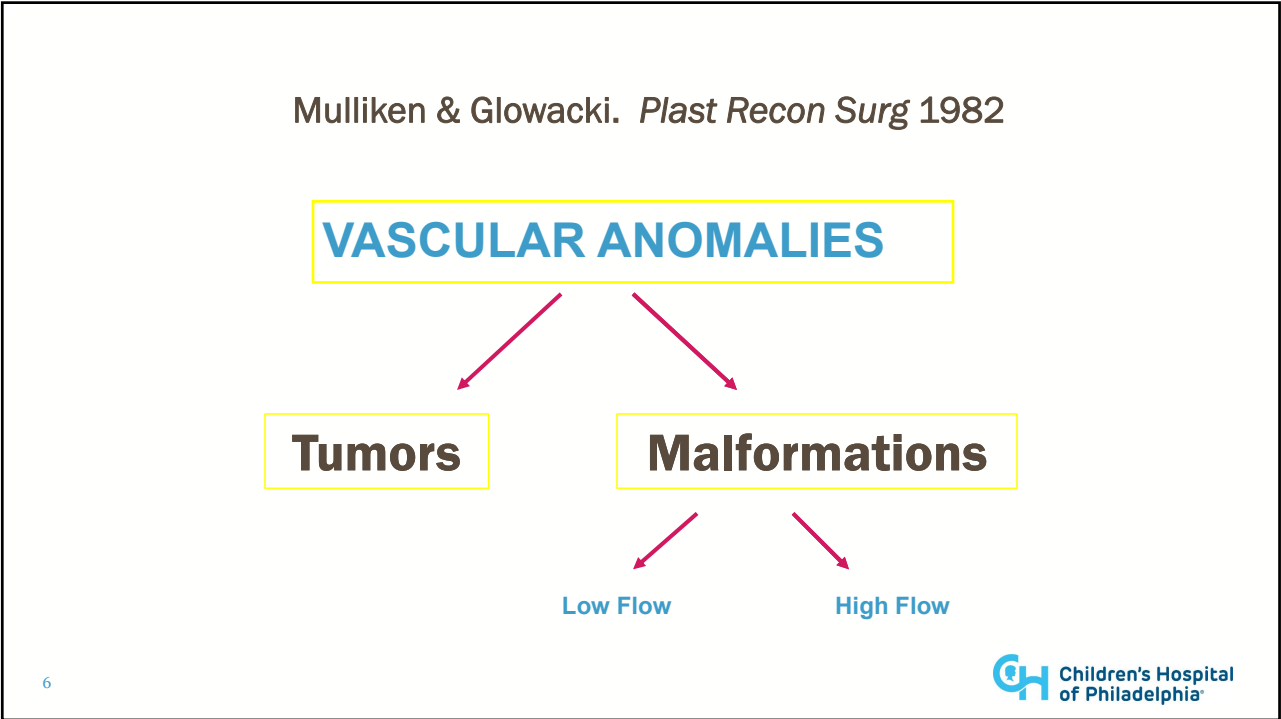
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4

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5



6

### ISSVA CLASSIFICATION – 2014, 2018,2022

( WASSAF ET AL *PEDIATRICS* VOL 136 NUMBER 1, JULY 2015)

**ISSVA classification for vascular anomalies**  
(Approved at the 20th ISSVA Workshop, Melbourne, April 2014)

Overview table

Vascular anomalies				
Vascular tumors	Vascular malformations			
	Simple	Combined *	of major named vessels	associated with other anomalies
<a href="#">Benign</a>	<a href="#">Capillary malformations</a>	<a href="#">CVM, CLM</a>	<a href="#">See details</a>	<a href="#">See list</a>
<a href="#">Locally aggressive or borderline</a>	<a href="#">Lymphatic malformations</a>	<a href="#">LVM, CLVM</a>		
	<a href="#">Venous malformations</a>	<a href="#">CAVM*</a>		
	<a href="#">Arteriovenous malformations*</a>	<a href="#">CLAVM*</a>		
<a href="#">Malignant</a>	<a href="#">Arteriovenous fistula*</a>	<a href="#">others</a>		


\* defined as two or more vascular malformations found in one lesion  
\* high-flow lesions

N.B. The classification tables do not list exhaustively all known vascular anomalies. Some rare "dermatologic" vascular anomalies will be found in dermatology textbooks.

The tumor or malformation nature or precise classification of some lesions is still unclear. These lesions appear in a [separate provisional list](#).

[Abbreviations used](#)

For more details, click on the underlined links



7

## IMPROVED CLASSIFICATION

- New Diagnoses
- Anatomical Variants
- Named Syndromes
- Known and Accepted Genetic Causes
- Recently updated in 2018 in Amsterdam



8

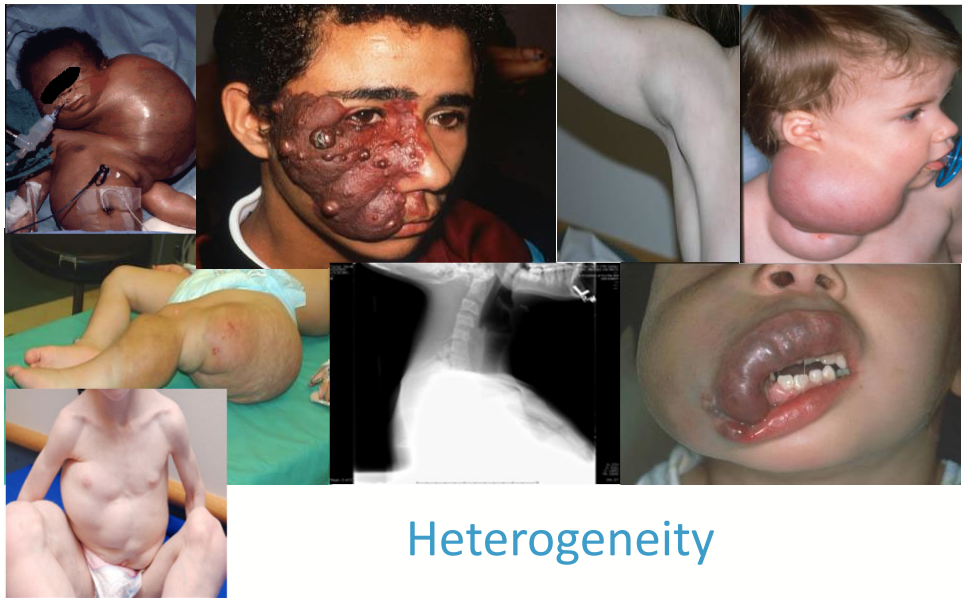


# Tumors (Benign and Malignant)



9

# VASCULAR MALFORMATIONS



Heterogeneity

10

OUR PROBLEM

What the MD contemplates

Phenotype:

- History
- Clinical Exam
- Radiology
- Pathology

Genotype:

- Somatic
- Germline

Why is this difficult

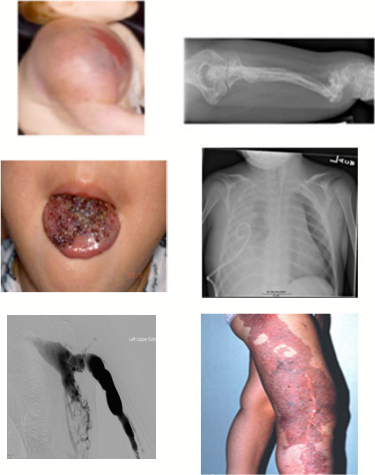
- Rare diagnoses do not fit into a perfect box
- Expertise is not found everywhere
- Lack of training in medical school, nursing school and other allied health professions
- Delay in diagnosis
- Many interventions as there is no standard of practice
- Anxious patients and families searching for answers leading to more stress and anxiety

11

LYMPHATIC ANOMALIES

12

## COMPLICATIONS




- Bleeding and infections
- Bone and soft tissue involvement: pain, swelling
- Lymphatic blebs: leakage, bleeding, anemia
- Effusions: respiratory distress, chronic lung disease
- Dilated veins: phlebitis, risk of thrombosis
- Overgrowth: functional issues, pain, orthopedic issues
- Coagulopathy

13


## LYMPHATIC TUMORS

- Kaposiform Hemangioendothelioma (KHE)
  - Intermediate malignancy
  - No metastatic potential
  
- Lymphangiosarcoma
  - Malignant




14


LYMPHATIC MALFORMATIONS




Macrocystic LM




Microcystic LM



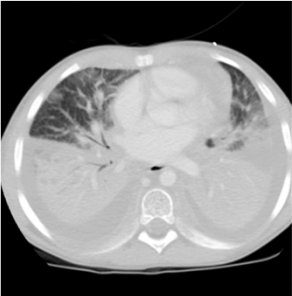
Combined  
VM(CLVM)




Gorham Stout Disease  
(GSD)



Generalized Lymphatic  
Anomaly (GLA)




Kaposiform Lymphangiomatosis  
(KLA)




Central Conducting Lymphatic  
Anomaly  
(CCLA)

15

A PATIENT STORY



16



16

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8



MICHAEL ALEXANDER  
PROKOPOWICZ

- Born on May 13, 2009
- 8 lbs. 5 oz.
- Happy and healthy and super smart



17

CONCERNING  
SYMPTOMS  
STARTED AT AGE 5

- Fever
- Rash
- Bone pain
- Unexplained swelling in groin and scrotum
- Poor appetite
- Fatigue
- Unusual bruising



18

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9

LOOKING FOR AN  
EXPLANATION:  
CONSULTATION WITH  
SPECIALISTS

• Hematology

• Urology

• Orthopedics

• Endocrinology

• Rheumatology

• Neurology

• GI

• Pulmonary

• Cardiology

• Nutrition

• Physical Therapy

• Occupational  
Therapy



19

MANY SCARY DIAGNOSES  
CONSIDERED OVER 12  
MONTHS

• Parvovirus

• ITP

• Hydrocele

• Inguinal hernia

• Viral epididymitis

• Behavioral anorexia

• CMV, EBV, ehrlichiosis,  
Lyme, brucellosis

• Systemic lupus

• Cystic fibrosis



• Fanconi’s anemia

• Dyskeratosis congenita

• PNH

• Aplastic anemia

• Von Willebrand’s



20



21

**A MINOR BUMP ON THE HEAD TAKES A SERIOUS TURN**

- “Goose egg” on the head rapidly expands to diffuse scalp swelling
- Seen urgently by local hematologist
- Platelets and fibrinogen low
- Pain and swelling worsened
- Drove to ER at University of Michigan

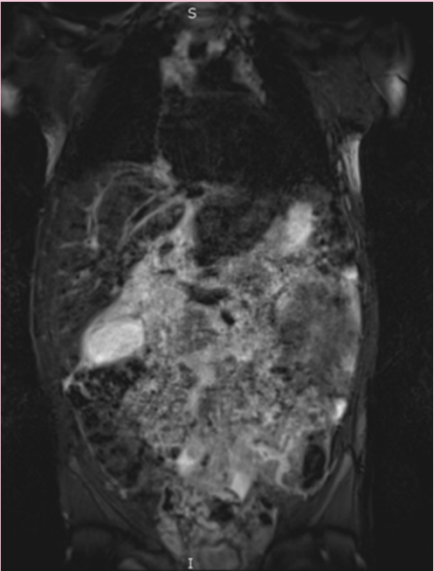


22



UNEXPECTED DIAGNOSIS:  
DIFFUSE  
LYMPHANGIOMATOSIS

- MRI report read when we arrived back in Baltimore
- Didn't know what diagnosis meant: turned to Google
  - *"Diffuse lymphangiomatosis has a poor prognosis and no cure. It is characterized by slow progressive growth of lymphatics commonly with chylous effusions and may be associated with lytic bone lesions and mediastinal compression."*
- Looked online for anyone we thought might help and sent many emails



23

REACHED OUT

- Recommended a biopsy to confirm diagnosis
- Started on sirolimus (troughs, PK studies if needed)
- **Words of wisdom:** "Do not read about this" & "Take care of yourself and your marriage"
- Discussed other specialists that we will need (pulmonary, IR, cardiology, endocrine, ortho)
- I asked about what research was being done and how I can help

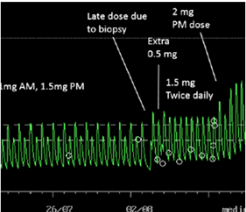
Late dose due to biopsy

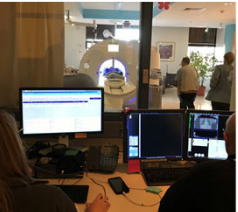
2 mg PM dose


Extra 0.5 mg

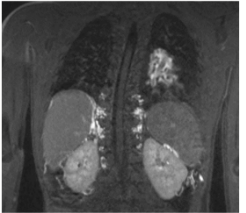
1.5 mg AM, 1.5mg PM

1.5 mg Twice daily

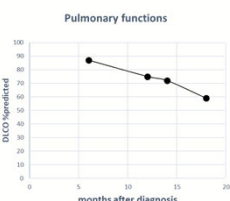


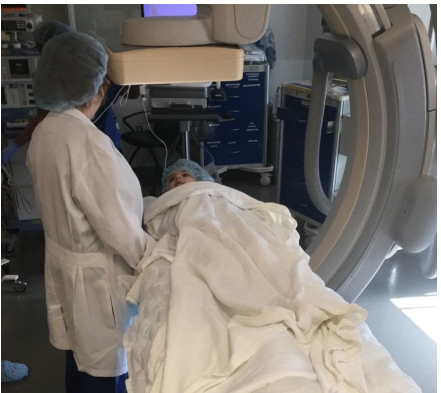




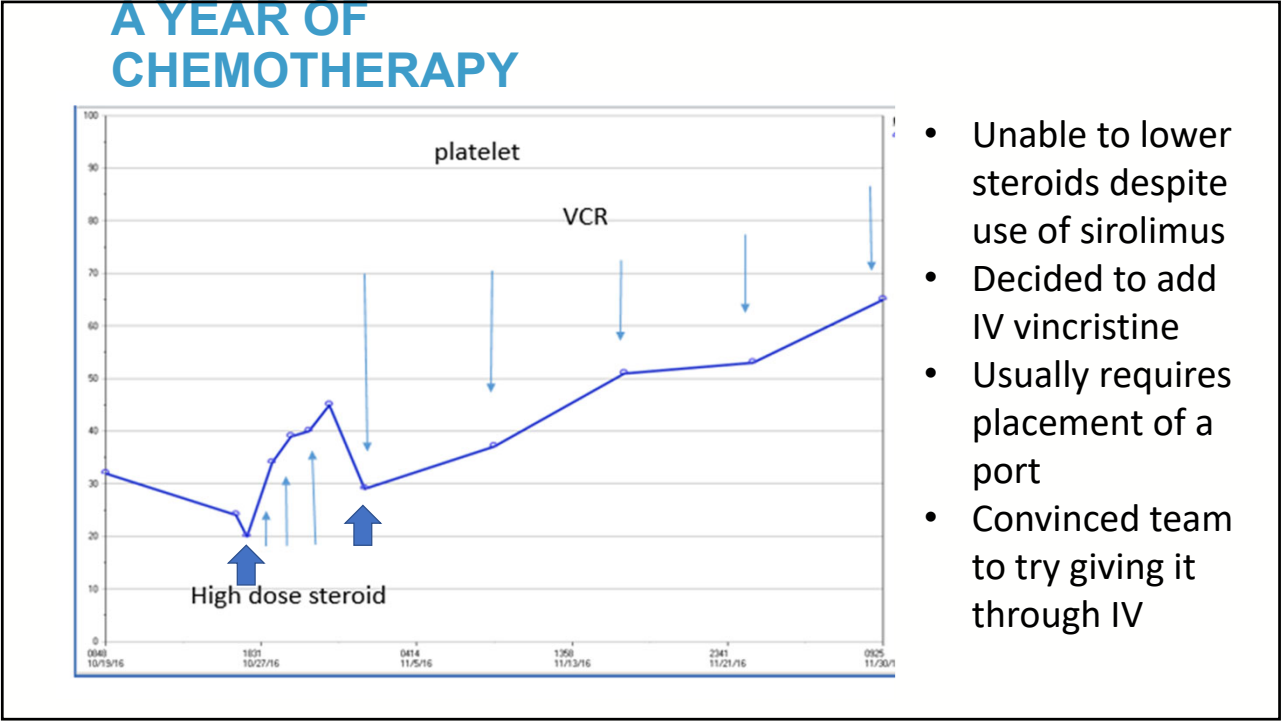


Pulmonary functions





24



25



26

27

28

## LESSONS LEARNED



- Diagnosis can be difficult even for those with a medical background
- Social media can bring vital information to patients with rare diseases and their families
- Clinicians and researchers can benefit from the patient community
- Imagine how this is for those with no medical knowledge who are not close to a major medical center...

29

## LYMPHATIC MALFORMATIONS

- Macrocytic vs. microcystic
- Head and neck most common location
- Swelling, pain, infection, disfigurement, bone involvement
- Isolated LMs frequently with mutations in *PIK3CA*
- Diagnosis – US, PE, MRI, but CT may be helpful for bony lesions  
→ consider possibility of pleural/pericardial effusions and bony vertebral lesions, avoid biopsy
- Treatment – sclerotherapy, full vs partial resection, sirolimus, antibiotics/steroids if infected, compression
- *PIK3CA* mutations

30



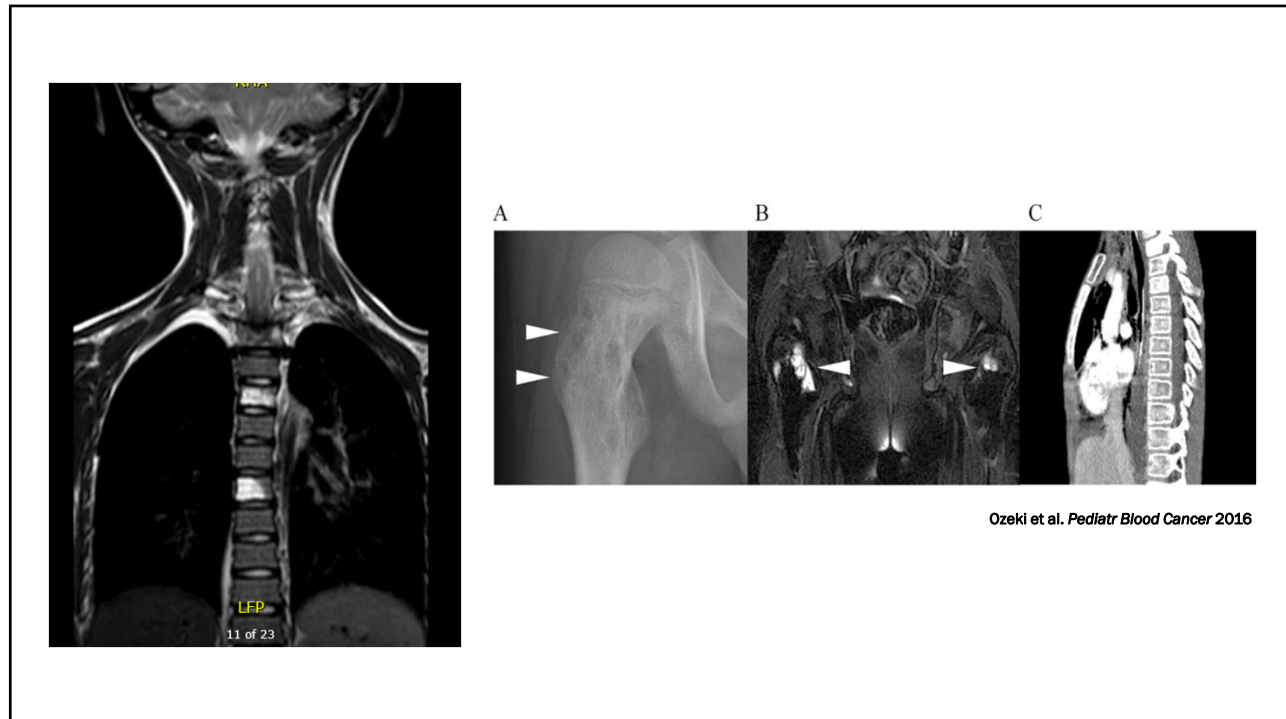


31

## GENERALIZED LYMPHATIC ANOMALY (GLA)

- Previously known as lymphangiomatosis
- Non-neoplastic, multicentric proliferation of dilated lymphatic vessels, resembling a common LM
- Likely present since birth but becomes clinically significant usually within first 2 decades of life
- Affects bone, liver, spleen, mediastinum, lung, and soft tissues
- Bone involvement is osteolytic (punched out lesions, cortex intact)
- Clinical response depends on location and extent, thoracic involvement has worst prognosis
- PIK3CA mutations

32

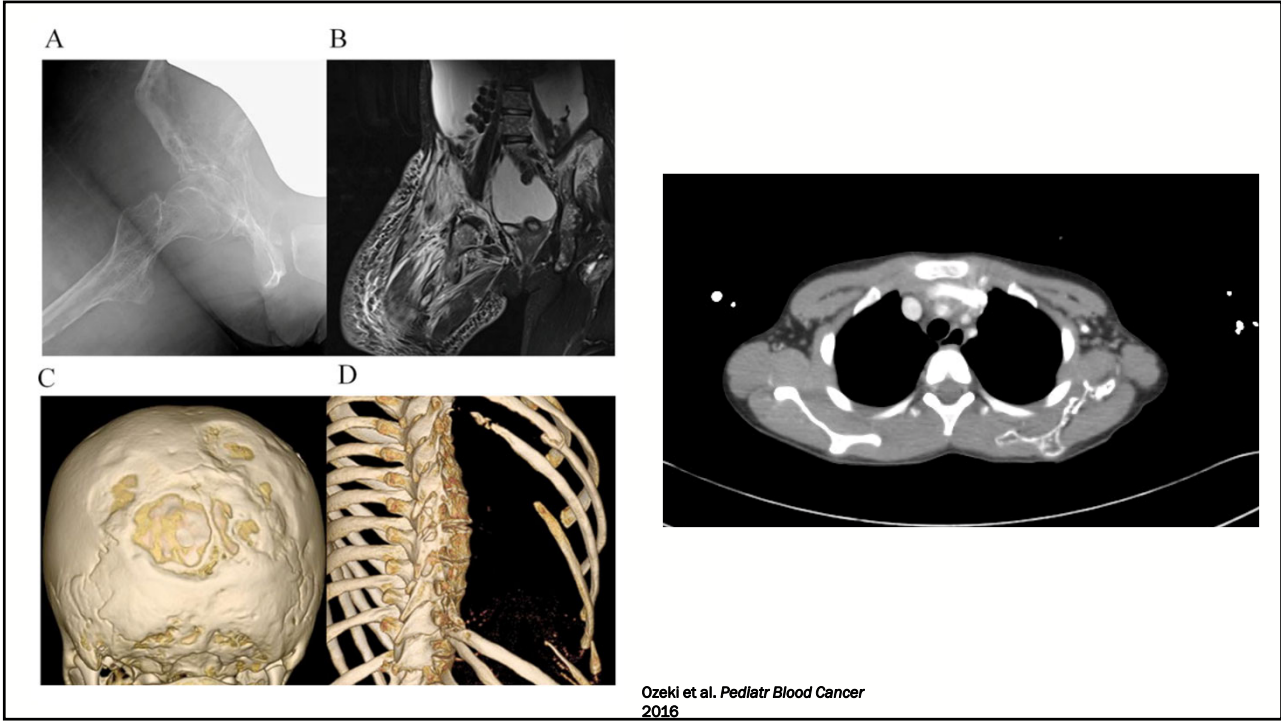


33

## GORHAM STOUT DISEASE (GSD)

- Aka *vanishing bone disease*
- Significant clinical overlap with GLA, but tends to involve single site (or adjacent sites) bone and there is osteolysis of both medullary areas and cortex
- Upper axial skeleton most commonly affected
- Often associated with adjacent soft tissue mass or areas of microcystic LM
- Osteolysis can be profound and can result in unstable situations  
→ cervical/spinal instability or non-functional appendages
- KRAS

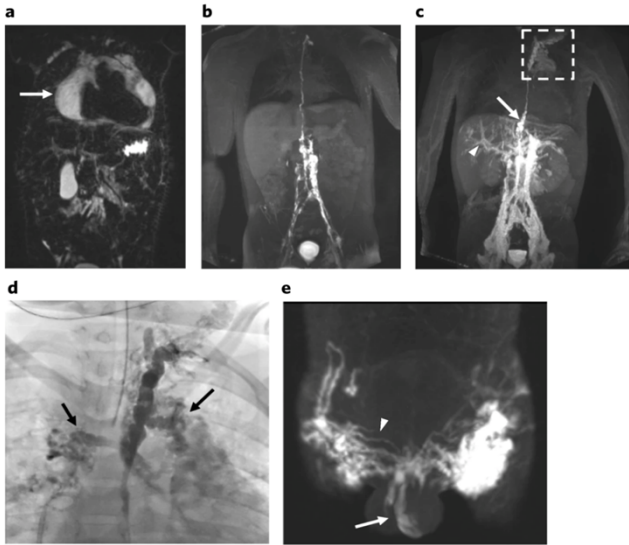
34



35

**CENTRAL  
CONDUCTING  
LYMPHATIC  
ANOMALY (CCLA)**

- Abnormal lymphatic vessels that lead to dilated vessels and cysts and reflux of lymphatic fluid/chyle into soft tissues
- Best characterized by or MR lymphangiography
- Mostly Rasopathies



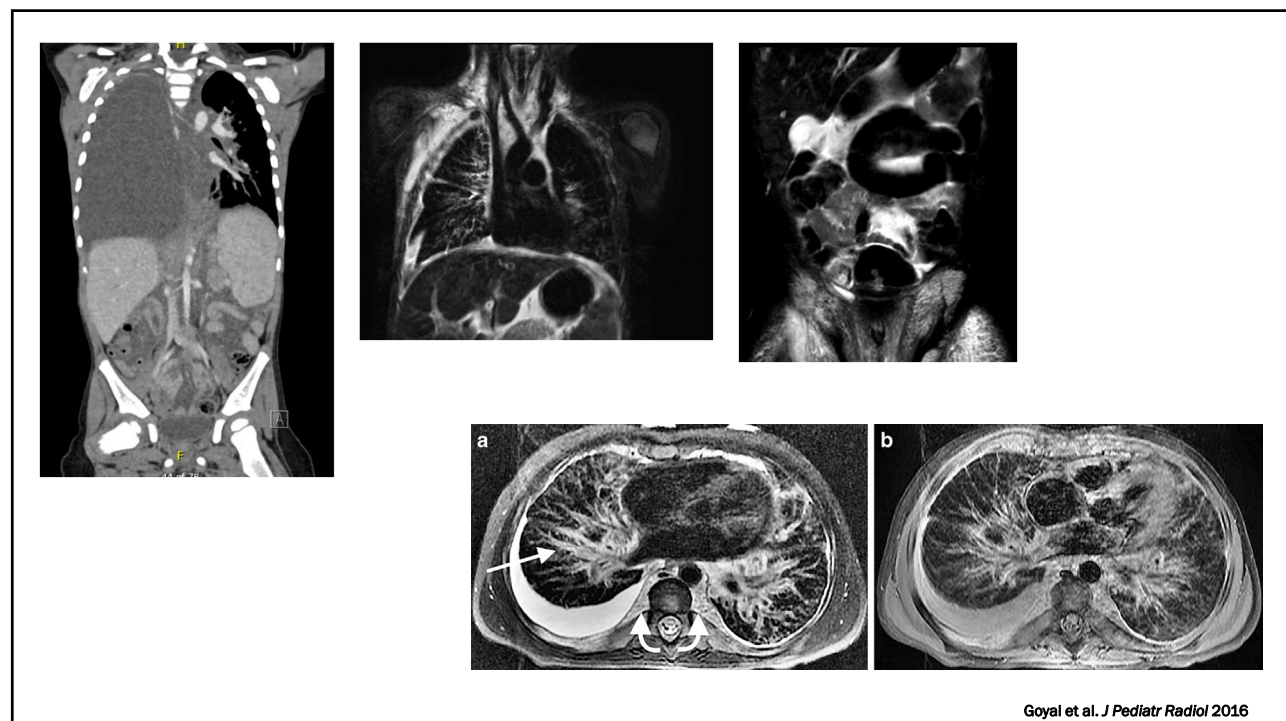
36



## KAPOSIFORM LYMPHANGIOMATOSIS (KLA)

- Considered an aggressive subtype of GLA, but histologically distinct
  - foci of spindle endothelial cells on a background of malformed lymphatic vessels
- Usually involves multiple organs, but predominantly thoracic cavity and causes significant (life-threatening) pleural effusions
- KLA effusions more likely to be frankly hemorrhagic than GLA
- Patients often coagulopathic at presentation (elevated D-dimer, hypofibrinogenemia, thrombocytopenia)
- Usually presents at a younger age than GLA and GSD and has higher morbidity/mortality
- Mortality 50-60% historically
- NRAS, PIK3CA

37




38

INTERVENTIONAL OPTIONS


- Sclerotherapy
- Embolization
- Lymphatic Intervention

39




39

NEONATE WITH LARGE LYMPHATIC  
MALFORMATION



40



40

## EMBOLIZATION

- Occlusion of a vessel, performed endovascularly.
  - Glue
  - Concentrated ethanol
  - Particles (plastic beads)
  - Coils

41

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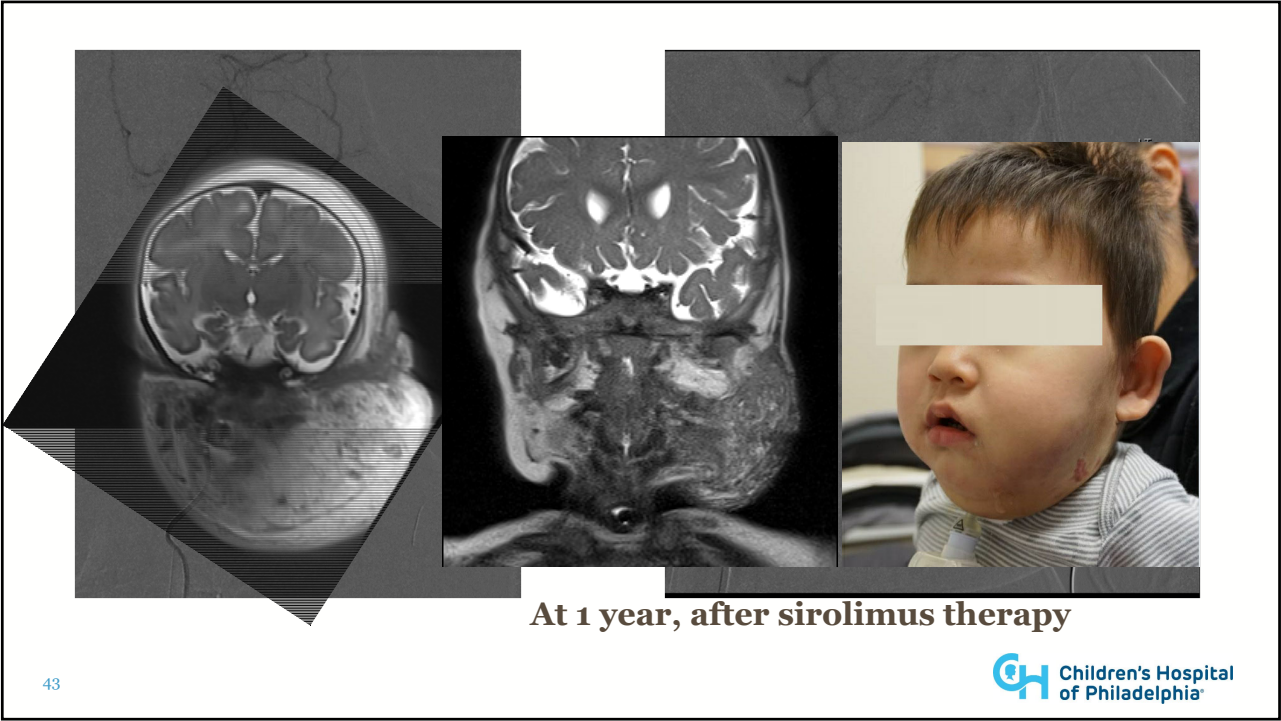
### 1 DAY-OLD, WITH KAPOSIFORM HEMANGIOENDOTHELIOMA, HEART FAILURE, CONSUMING PLATELETS



42

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43

## LYMPHATIC ANATOMY AND FLOW

- Lymphatic anatomy and physiology was extensively studied up to the 1970s.

40-year hiatus

- Absence of lymphatic imaging methods
- Absence of interventional techniques

44

44


MR LYMPHANGIOGRAPHY

Intra-nodal

Intra-hepatic

Intra-mesenteric

Biko et al. *Eur J. Rad* 2019, Dori et al. *Radiology* 2014, Dori et al. *Pediatrics* 2014, Dori et al. *Eur. Rad.* 2020, Krishnamurthy et al. *Radiology* 2015



45

7 YEAR-OLD WITH CCLA AND CONGENITAL PLE


Intra-nodal

Intra-hepatic

Intra-mesenteric

Leak seen in duodenum

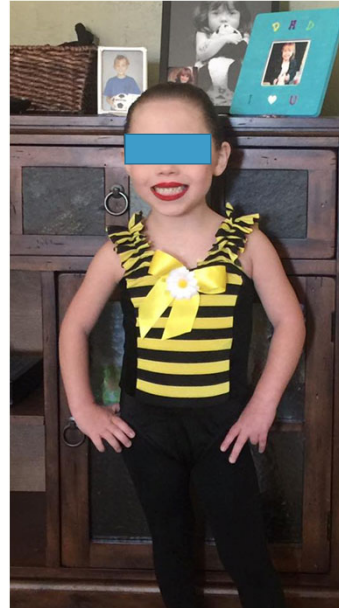
Dori et al. *Eur. Rad.* 2020



46



## OUTCOME AFTER PLE TREATMENT



47

## RADIOLOGY AND VASCULAR ANOMALIES: THE FUTURE

- Continued refinement and revision of lesion classification based on advances in imaging
- Further refinement in sclerotherapy, embolization, and ablation techniques
- Local drug delivery:
  - Using techniques in sclerotherapy & embolization
  - Ultrasound-assisted drug delivery

48



48

# MEDICAL TREATMENT OPTIONS

## The Power of One

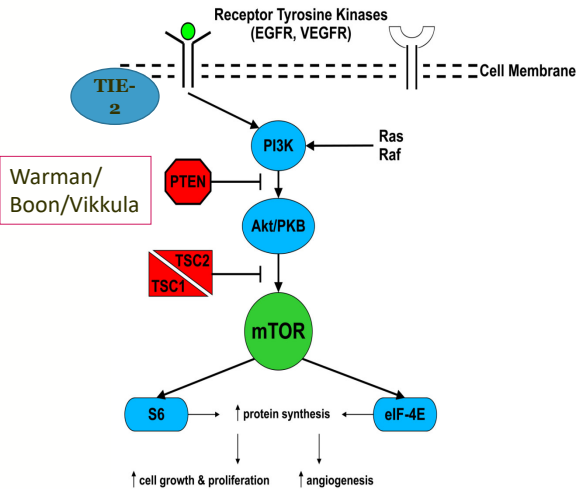
49

49

### THE POWER OF ONE HOW ONE PATIENT CHANGED OUR THINKING..... (2007)



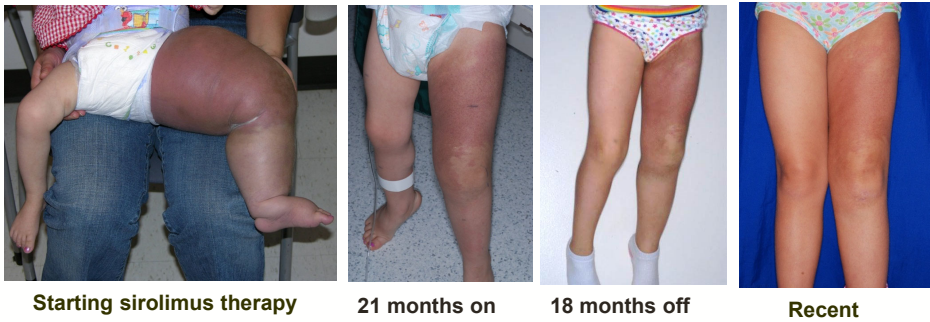
Vincristine/Steroids  
Cyclophosphamide  
Amicar  
Avastin  
Sirolimus



50



MTOR INHIBITOR - SIROLIMUS



ISSVA 2010

51



51

MTOR INHIBITORS

- Sirolimus
  - (Everolimus)
  - Initially developed as an anti-fungal agent
  - PK and PD well developed even in infants
  - Treatment long term
  - Can be used in conjunction with surgery and sclerotherapy
  - Mechanism:
    - Blocks the activity of mammalian target of rapamycin
    - Protein kinase that regulates Growth factors that stimulate Cell growth, differentiation and angiogenesis
- Side Effects
    - Immunosuppression
    - Mouth Sores
    - Headaches
    - GI complaints
    - Metabolic issues
    - Anemia
    - Hyperlipidemia
    - Pneumonitis
    - Effusions
  - FDA approved for transplant, LAM, TS

52

52

## SIROLIMUS AND VASCULAR ANOMALIES

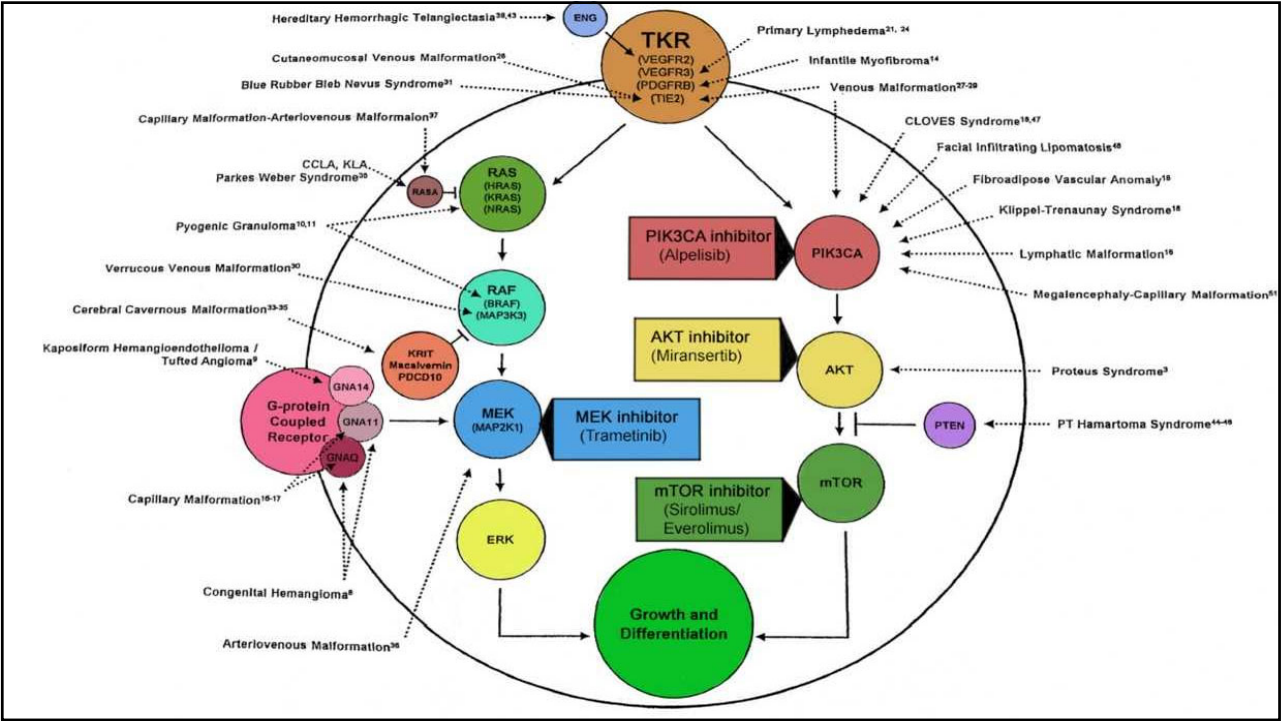
Over 100 articles in PubMed

Other ongoing (Clinical Trial.gov)

Recent multicenter randomized trial of sirolimus vs sirolimus and steroids (*Blood* 139 (11) 2022)

- Lymphatic Anomalies
- KHE/TA
- KLA
- CLVA/KT
- PTEN
- Venous Malformations
- BRBNS
- Not for: AVM, CCLA


53



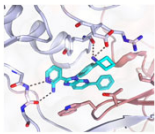
54

PHENOTYPE/GENOTYPE CORRELATION

55



55



AKT INHIBITORS

- Miransertib
- Mechanism:
  - Binds and inhibits the activity of Akt
  - Inhibition of the PIK3/Akt signaling pathway
- Indications:
  - Breast Cancer
  - Proteus syndrome
  - PROS
- Oral once a day dosing
- PK dosing
- 1/6 dose used in Cancer

- Side Effects: well-tolerated
  - Mouth Sores
  - Headaches
  - GI complaints
  - Metabolic issues
  - Anemia
  - Hyperlipidemia
  - Pneumonitis
- MOSAIC Study (Proteus and PROS) is active but not recruiting
- Study of Safety and Tolerability in Patients with PROS and Proteus Treated with Miransertib (MK-7075) (MK-7075-006)
- Other AKT inhibitors are in investigation


56

56


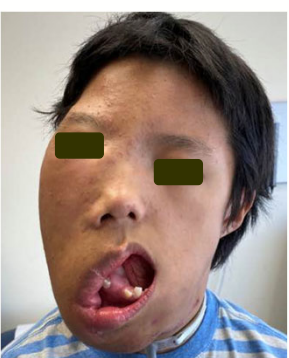


ALPELISIB

- Oral PIK3CA inhibitor for PROS
  - Selectively inhibits Class I PI3K p110α (catalytic subunit)
  - Lipid kinase that plays a role in biological processes, proliferation, survival , differentiation and metabolism
  - FDA approved for metastatic and recurrent Breast Cancer in combination with other therapy
  - **Recent FDA approval for PROS (contingent on EPIKP2)**
  - **Recent reports of efficacy in Venous Malformations at ISSVA 2022**
- Side Effects: Hyperglycemia, Diarrhea, Skin, Mouth sores, Alopecia
- Studies Available
  - MAP Alpelisib for PROS
  - Retrospective Chart review (completed) – EPIK-P1
  - Prospective, Double Blind upfront 16 week placebo controlled trial to assess efficacy and safety of Alpelisib in Pediatric and Adult patients – EPIK-P2
    - Group I 18 years and older
    - Group II 6-17 years
    - Group III 2-5 years
    - Starting dose for Group I 125 mg a day
    - Starting dose for Group II 50 mg a day

57



57



Diagnosis

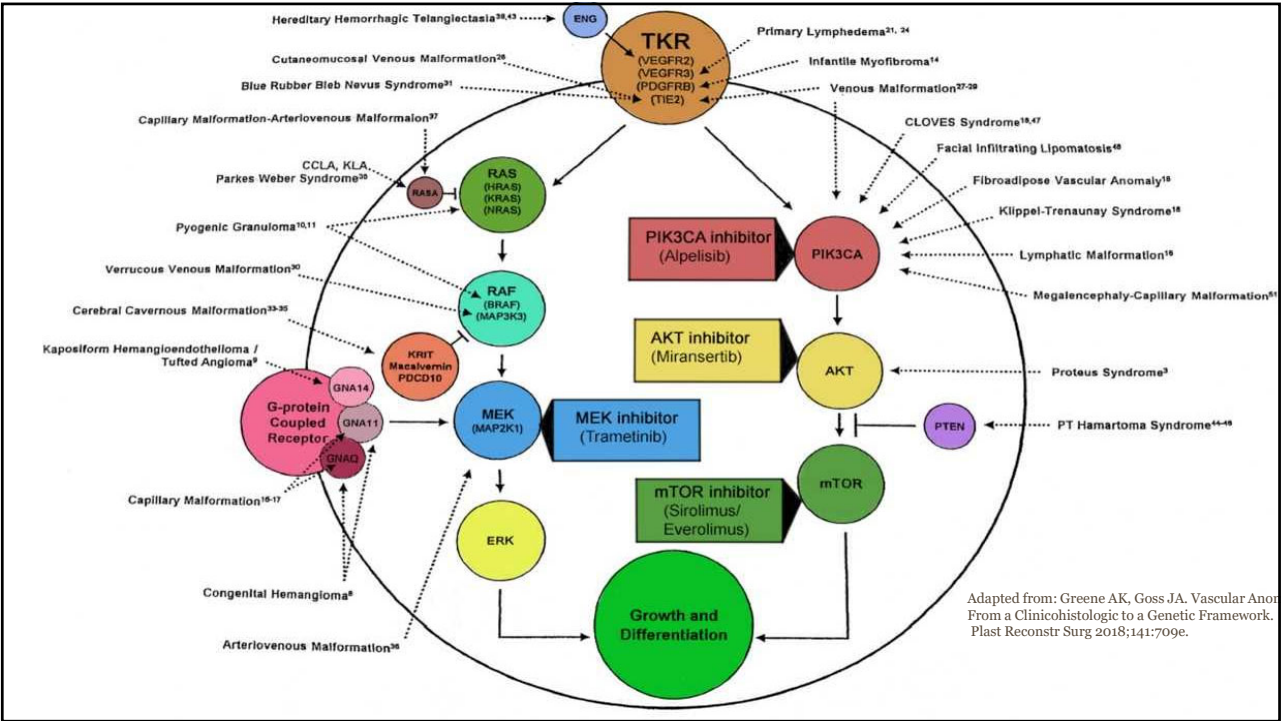
6 months

12 months

24 months

TREATMENT WITH  
ALPELISIB

58



59

MEK INHIBITORS

- Trametinib
  - Reversible MEK1/2 inhibitor
  - Approved for BRAF mutated melanoma, non-small cell lung cancer, anaplastic thyroid Cancer
  - Being studied in Pediatric brain tumors, LCH, Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia, infantile cardiomyopathy associated with RAS-pathway mutations
  - Side Effects: Skin, GI, Cardiac, ophthalmologic
  - Reported cases at ISSVA with good results. Most adults with skin toxicity and only can tolerated 1mg – 1.5 mg a day. Liquid dosing available for children but need IND
- Cobimetinib In Extracranial Arteriovenous Malformations (COBI-AVM Study, Arkansas)
- Selumetinib Approved in NF patients
- Trametinib in Extracranial Arteriovenous Malformations (Stanford, UCSF)
- CaNVAS Genotype Phenotype study with Trametinib

60

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## RASOPATHIES

**Patient 3: 18 yo with KLA and CBL Mutation**

Outcome:

- Normalization of respiratory and clotting parameters
- Complete remodeling of central lymphatic system
- Normalization of chest CT and resolution of effusion

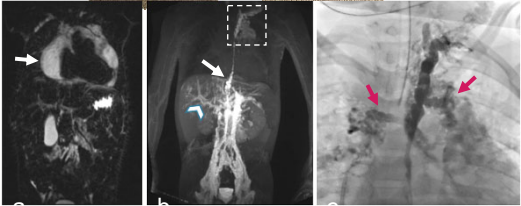

Parameter	Baseline	Post Treatment
FEV1 (% predicted)	53	89
FVC (% predicted)	56	81
TLC (% predicted)	67	87
Platelets (K/ $\mu$ L)	568	231
D-dimer ( $\mu$ g/mLFEU)	9.17	<0.27

DCMRL pre

DCMRL post

DCMRL pre

DCMRL post




Noonan Syndrome  
KLA  
AVM  
CCLA  
Rasa-1

61

## OTHER THERAPIES

- Topical VT30 (PIK3CA inhibitor)
  - Venous/Lymphatic malformations with PIK3CA or TEK mutations
  - Age 18-60
  - Multiple biopsies
  - Phase I
  - Phase II
- PALV-06 Topical Sirolimus 3.9% gel (PTX-022)
  - Phase II
  - Treatment of microcystic lymphatic malformations
  - 13 and older

62



62

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31



Vascular Anomaly	Gene	Treatment
Venous Malformation	TEK PIK3CA	TIE-2 Inhibitors Alpelisib
<b>PROS</b>	<b>PIK3CA</b>	<b>Alpelisib, mTOR inhibitors</b>
PHTS	PTEN	mTOR inhibitors
HHT	ENG, ALK1 HHT3, HHT4 GDF2or BMP9	Bevacizumab Thalidomide/derivatives Pazopanib
<b>GSD</b>	<b>KRAS</b>	<b>MEK Inhibitors, mTOR inhibitors with bisphosphonates</b>
<b>KLA</b>	<b>NRAS CBL</b>	<b>MEK Inhibitors, mTOR inhibitors</b>
CM-AVM1 CV-AVM2	RASA1 EPHB4	?MEK Inhibitors
AVM	MAP2K1 KRAS BRAF	MEK inhibitors Thalidomide
Congenital Hemangiomas	GNAQ GNA11	GNAQ inhibitors
Pyogenic Granulomas	GNAQ,KRAS,HRAS, BRAF, GNA14	?BRAF inhibitors, MEK inhibitors


63

63

## NEW THERAPEUTICS

- Goal is to reduce not eliminate: we need to support normal growth
- We do not need the MTD
- Use of medication will be chronic thus the toxicity profile of a drug is important (short and long term)
- We will be treating Children and Adults
- Cancer Diagnoses may learn from VA

64

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64



THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE

Need for more  
Natural History  
Data

Improved  
Outcome  
Measures for  
Clinical Trial

Adaptive Study  
Design

Preclinical  
Testing

Animal models

Availability of  
genomic testing  
For all

Circulating free  
DNA

Improvement of  
NIH Funding

Awareness

Collaboration  
Nationally and  
Internationally

Industry support

Drug Delivery

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65

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Anticoagulation QOL

PedsQL™

Laboratory and QOL monitoring  
in Slow Flow Vascular  
Anomalies




Team LULABI




Prospective Cohort Study in  
Complex Lymphatic  
Anomalies

NK K D R V Vwxg |



Kaposiform  
Hemangioendothelioma:  
Hematology and Oncology  
Survey Study



VATCH

Genotype/Phenotype  
Matching for Vascular  
Anomalies

Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia

66

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33

# THE POWER OF THE PATIENT’S VOICE

- An individual patient can catalyze important clinical & scientific collaboration “The Power of One”
- We the community can and should contribute to patient care and research
- Each of us can support our rare disease cause using whatever skills and background experience that we have

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WRJHWKHU



67

**WHEN YOU HEAR  
HOOF BEATS FIRST  
THINK HORSES BUT  
DON'T FORGET THE  
ZEBRAS**



Sometimes  
It is the  
Zebra

68

## THANK YOU

- Patients and Families
- Patient and Family Support Groups: LMI, LGDA, KT support Group, Cloves Syndrome Community, NOVA, HHT support Group
- Funding Sources: FDA, NIH, LMI
- Institutional Support: Frontier Program, Hospital and Divisions

