A Case of Vaccine-Preventable Back Pain

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**Cervical Cancer**

- **Medical History:**
  - Major depressive disorder, anal warts, hypertension
  - Up to date on all health maintenance
- **Social History:**
  - Lives with same-sex partner of 15 years, no recent sexual activity.
  - Substance Use: Former distant smoker, no recreational drug use, 1 drink per week.

**Initial Physical Exam:**
- Neuro: No neurologic deficits, normal sensation of perineum and upper/lower extremities. Normal DTRs
- Musculoskeletal: S/S strength in all extremities. Tenderness to palpation of ischial tuberosities and coccyx.

**Time Course:**
- 6 mos: Pain is now in low back and radicular to his right hip. Referred to ortho. MRI: Lumbar spine & right hip. WNL.
- 8 mos: Multiple ED visits for pain. Steroid injection given with minimal relief.
- 9 mos: 5-year survival is 82% if T2N0, 42% survival if T4N+.

**Initial Physical Exam:**
- Neo: No neurologic deficits, normal sensation of perineum and upper/lower extremities. Normal DTRs
- Musculoskeletal: S/S strength in all extremities. Tenderness to palpation of ischial tuberosities and coccyx.

**Diagnosis:**
- Anal SCC
- Pts with history of anal warts
- HIV-negative women over the age of 45 with cervical HPV 16
- MSM
- HIV+ men & women
- Women with a history of high-grade cervical, vulvar or vaginal dysplasia or cancer
- Immunosuppressed patients

**Discussion:**
- **What is it?**
  - Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a double-stranded DNA virus of the Papillomaviridae family. Its lifecycle is tied to epithelial tissue.

- **Why do we care?**
  - HPV is associated with warts (including condyloma acuminatum) and cancer
  - Approximately 45,000 HPV-associated cancers occur in the US each year
  - 7,083 - anal cancer
  - 12,143 - cervical cancer
  - 19,975 - oropharyngeal cancer

- **What About Anal Cancer?**
  - Affects ~1.6/100,000 women, and 1.0/100,000 men in the United States
  - Rates increase in men who have sex with men (MSM) at rates of 35/100,000 of those who are HIV-negative and 70/100-100,000 in those who are HIV-positive

- **5-year survival is 82% if T2N0, 42% survival if T4N+.

**References:**
- Palefsky, J. (2019). Anal Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions: Diagnosis, screening, prevention, and treatment. In: UpToDate, Post, TW (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA 2020
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