

Dr GUELLATI Imane  
Medical Microbiology Specialist



# A Case Report of Recurrent Opportunistic Infections in a Child with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)

# Contents

1

WHAT IS SCID?

2

CASE STUDY

3

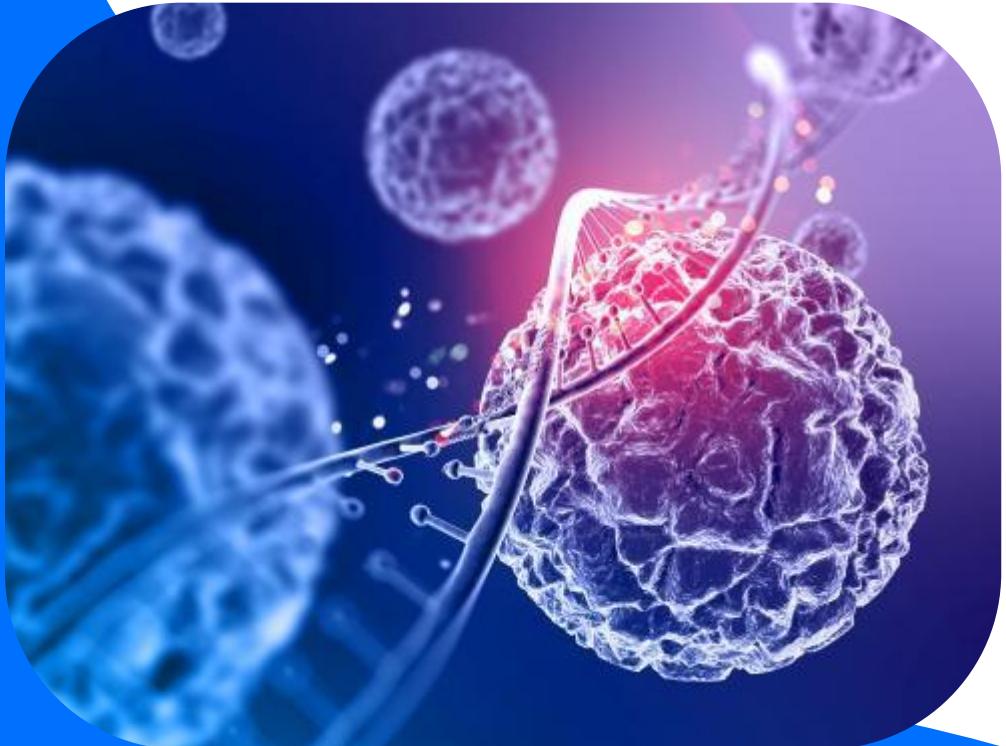
CONCLUSION





# Introduction

# Introduction



Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is a primary genetic immunodeficiency disorder that typically manifests in early childhood.

Common symptoms: diarrhea, pneumonia, otitis media, sepsis, and skin infections.

Early recurrence of opportunistic infections with lymphopenia requires immunological investigation.

# Opportunistic Pathogens



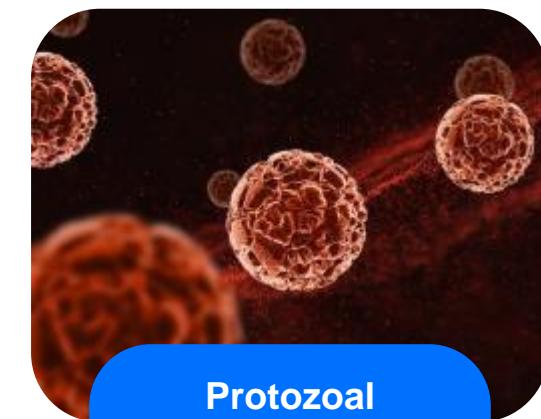
Bacterial infections in SCID patients can include pneumonia caused by encapsulated organisms.



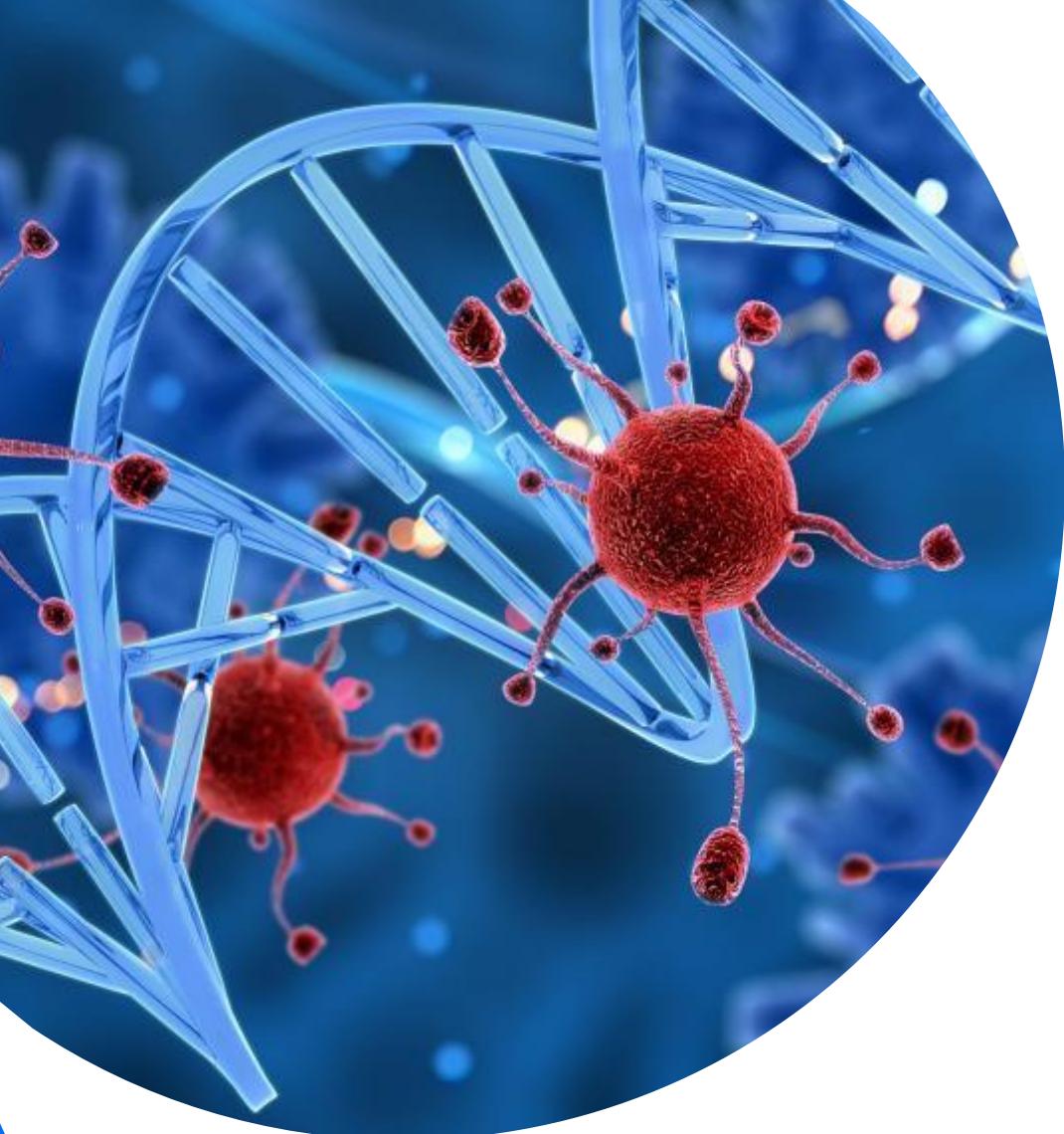
Viral infections such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) are common due to the lack of T-cell mediated immunity.



Fungal infections: Fungal pathogens like *Pneumocystis jirovecii* can cause severe pneumonia in these patients.



Protozoal infections: Infections such as toxoplasmosis can also occur in patients with SCID.



## OBJECTIVES:

Consider an underlying cause of recurrent infections in infants and investigate immunodeficiency if any subtle indicators are present.

We report the case of a 4-year-old boy who presented to the pediatric department with recurrent infections, but had an underlying SCID.

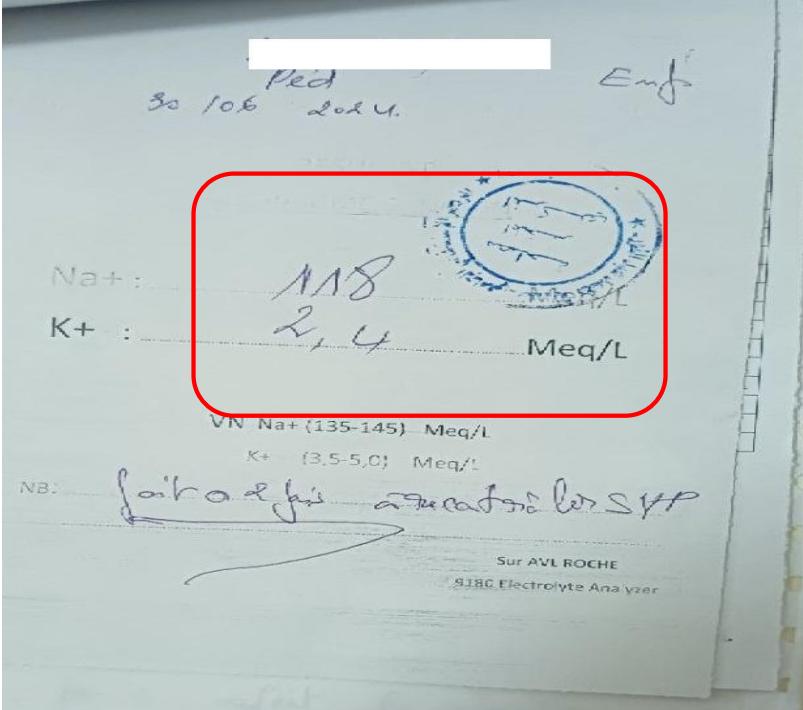


# Case Report

# Case Study



A A : 4-year-old boy,  
the third child of a  
second-degree  
consanguineous  
couple



Presented with:  
- Severe malnutrition  
- Mucositis  
- Bloody diarrhea.



Standard culture:  
Negative

Multiplex  
PCR (GI  
Panel):



BIO FIRE



BIOMÉRIEUX

**CHU**  
DE SETIF

Laboratoire de microbiologie  
Fiche de renseignements cliniques (PCR-MULTIPLEX)

Nom :  Date d'hospitalisation : 06-07-2014  
Prénom :  Date d'apparition de l'infection : 01-07-2014  
Age : 01 mois Sexe : masculin  
Service : Pédiatrie Date et heure du prélèvement : 1-07-2014 à 10h20

Prélèvement :  
 LCS  LBA  AET  Nasopharyngé (eau physiologique)  
 EXPECTORATION  Selles (milieux de transport ou eau physiologique)

Signes cliniques :  
 Fièvre  Toux  Constipation  
 Céphalées.  Dyspnée  Vomissements  
 Éruption cutanée  Hémoptysie  Diarrhée, aspect : Ambranté  
 Signes neurologiques  Pleurésie  Douleurs abdominales  
 Signes méningés  Détresse respiratoire  
Autres : muqueuse nasopharyngée

Signes radiologiques : /

Traitements reçus :  
Antibiotique : Ambrant flup  
Antiviral : /

Antécédents :

<input type="checkbox"/> Néoplasie évolutive associée	<input type="checkbox"/> Insuffisance respiratoire chronique
<input type="checkbox"/> Insuffisance cardiaque congestive	<input type="checkbox"/> Maladie cérébro-vasculaire
<input type="checkbox"/> Insuffisance rénale chronique ou aiguë	<input type="checkbox"/> Maladie hépatique
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabète sucré non équilibré	<input type="checkbox"/> BPCO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Immunodépression	<input type="checkbox"/> Drépanocytose
<input type="checkbox"/> Voyage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cas isolé <input type="checkbox"/> Collectif	

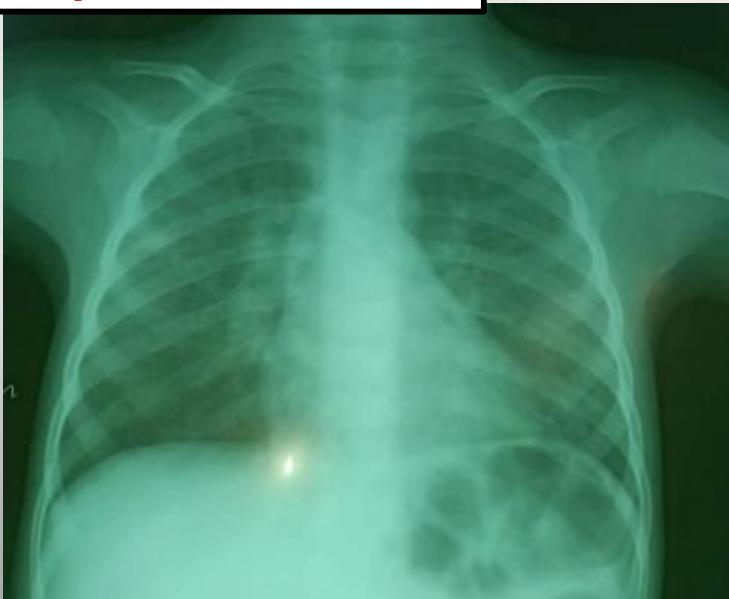
Autres : maladie connue à l'admission

**CACHET DU SERVICE**

**GRIFFE ET SIGNATURE DU MÉDECIN TRAINTANT**

**Dr M. Maitre Assistance Service Pédiatrie**

September 2020



- At 9 months: severe respiratory distress, fever, rhinopharyngitis, oral thrush.

→ Admitted to ICU for 28 days.  
→ Sputum: Klebsiella pneumoniae, Enterococcus sp.



October 2020

- At 10 months: mucositis + necrotic lymphadenopathy.

Dosage pondéral des immunoglobulines : 15/10/2020 (Technique : néphélémétrie laser)

IgG	1.22g/l	4.6-8.6 g/l
IgA	0.10g/l	0.19-0.55 g/l
IgM	0.34 g/l	0.31-0.77 g/l

Measurement of immunoglobulin levels

Analyse par cytométrie en flux :

Phénotypage lymphocytaire T-B-NK :			
Cellules	%	VALEUR ABSOLUE	NORMES/AGE
T-CD3+	42.5%	3520	1900-5900
T-CD4+	31.5%	2609	1400-4300
T-CD8+	9%	745	500-1700
NK	1%	83	160-950
Leucocytes	/	25100	6400-13000
p.Neutrophiles	64%	16064	2300-6400
Lymphocytes	33%	8283	3400-9000
Monocytes	3%	753	300-2000
Rapport CD4+/CD8+		3.5	1.5-2.9
LB CD19+	56.5%	4680	610-2600

lymphocyte phenotyping

→ Immunodeficiency workup confirmed SCID.

# Outcome

Recurrent infections continued..

08/12/2020

To

15/12/2020

**Respiratory  
distress**

04/07/2021

To

07/07/2021

**Malnutrition due to  
acute gastroenteritis**

02/01/2023

To 11/01/2023

**Widespread thrush  
with feeding difficulty**



# Outcome

Recurrent infections  
continued (**Respiratory  
distress**, mucositis,  
onychomycosis...)

01/03/2024  
To 28/03/2024

Fortum: 200 mg/kg/day  
Colistin: 100 mg/kg/day  
Gentamicin: 5 mg/kg/day  
Favorable outcome

**FilmArray® Pneumonia Panel plus - IVD**

**BIO FIRE® BY BIOMÉRIEUX**  
www.BioFireDx.com

Run Information		Run Date	14 Mar 2024 7:51 PM	
Sample ID	ped	Serial No.		
Protocol	SPUTUM v3.3	Lot No.		
Pouch Type	Pneumoplus v2.0	Operator		
Controls	Passed	Instrument		
Run Status	Completed			
Detection Summary				
Bacteria				
Detected:	Bin (copies/mL)	Bin (copies/mL)		
		10 <sup>4</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>	10 <sup>6</sup>
✓	10 <sup>6</sup> Streptococcus pneumoniae	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>5</sup> Escherichia coli	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>5</sup> Haemophilus influenzae	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>4</sup> Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-baumannii complex	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>4</sup> Enterobacter cloacae complex	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>4</sup> Klebsiella oxytoca	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>4</sup> Klebsiella pneumoniae group	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>4</sup> Pseudomonas aeruginosa	■	■	■
✓	10 <sup>4</sup> Staphylococcus aureus	■	■	■
<small>Note: Detected results indicate the presence of a specific microorganism. Not Detected results indicate the absence of a specific microorganism. Bin (copies/mL) results indicate the causative agent of pneumonia. Semi-quantitative Bin (copies/mL) results generated by the FilmArray Pneumonia Panel plus are not equivalent to CFU/mL and do not consistently correlate with the quantity of bacterial analytes compared to CFU/mL. For specimens with multiple bacteria detected, the relative abundance of nucleic acids (copies/mL) may not correlate with the relative abundance of bacteria as determined by culture (CFU/mL). Clinical correlation is advised to determine significance of semi-quantitative Bin (copies/mL) for clinical management.</small>				
Antimicrobial Resistance Genes				
Detected:	mecA/C and MREJ			
<small>Note: Antimicrobial resistance can occur via multiple mechanisms. A Not Detected result for a genetic marker of antimicrobial resistance does not indicate susceptibility to associated antimicrobial drugs or drug classes. A Detected result for a genetic marker of antimicrobial resistance cannot be definitively linked to the microorganism(s) detected. Culture is required to obtain isolates for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and FilmArray Pneumonia Panel plus results should be used in conjunction with culture results for the determination of susceptibility or resistance.</small>				
Atypical Bacteria				
Detected:	None			
Viruses				
Detected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Adenovirus</li><li>✓ Coronavirus</li><li>✓ Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus</li><li>✓ Parainfluenza Virus</li><li>✓ Respiratory Syncytial Virus</li></ul>			

# Outcome

**FilmArray® GI Panel**

**Run Summary**

Sample ID:	4ans PED	Run Date:	11 Jul 2024
Detected:	Campylobacter Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EAEC) Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i> (EPEC) Enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (ETEC) <i>lt/st</i> Shiga/Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EIEC) Cryptosporidium <i>Giardia lamblia</i> Adenovirus F 40/41	Controls:	Passed

**Result Summary**

Bacteria	
✓ Detected	Campylobacter
Not Detected	Clostridium difficile toxin A/B
Not Detected	Plesiomonas shigelloides
Not Detected	Salmonella
Not Detected	Vibrio
Not Detected	Vibrio cholerae
Not Detected	Yersinia enterocolitica
Diarrheagenic <i>E. coli</i> /Shiga-like toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i>	
✓ Detected	Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EAEC)
✓ Detected	Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i> (EPEC)
✓ Detected	Enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (ETEC) <i>lt/st</i>
Not Detected	Shiga-like toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC) <i>stx</i> <i>E. coli</i> O157
✗ N/A	
✓ Detected	Shiga/Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EIEC)
Parasites	
✓ Detected	Cryptosporidium
Not Detected	Cyclospora cayetanensis
Not Detected	Entamoeba histolytica
✓ Detected	<i>Giardia lamblia</i>
Viruses	
✓ Detected	Adenovirus F 40/41
Not Detected	Astrovirus
Not Detected	Norovirus GI/GII
Not Detected	Rotavirus A
Not Detected	Sapovirus

**Run Details**

Pouch:	GI Panel v2.1	Protocol:	Stool FA v3.4
Run Status:	Completed	Operator:	1
Serial No.:		Instrument:	2
Lot No.:			

**FilmArray® GI Panel**

**Run Summary**

Sample ID:	4ans PED	Run Date:	24 Jul 2024
Detected:	Cryptosporidium <i>Giardia lamblia</i> Adenovirus F 40/41	Controls:	Passed

**Result Summary**

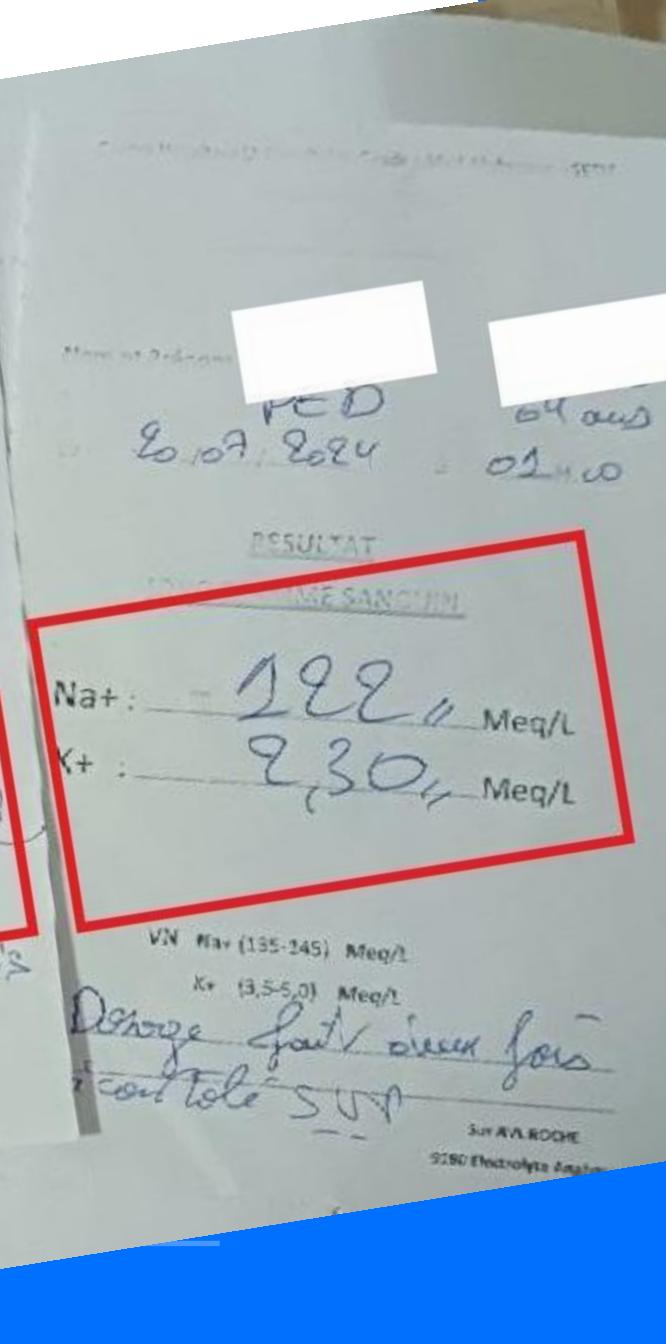
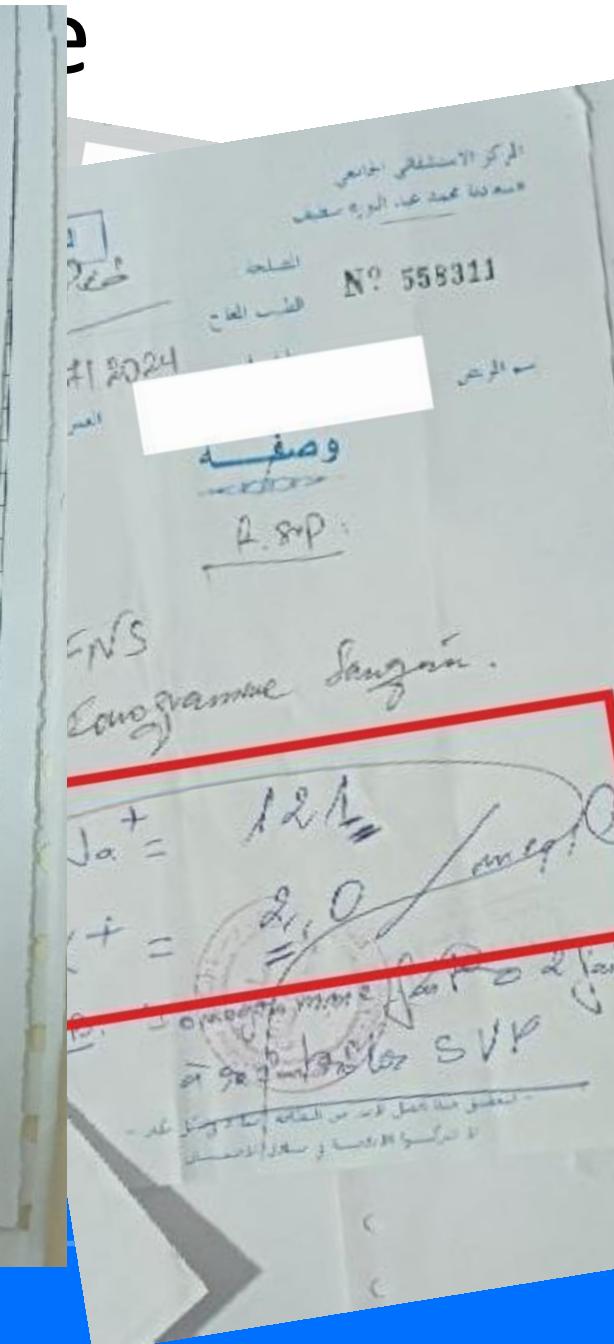
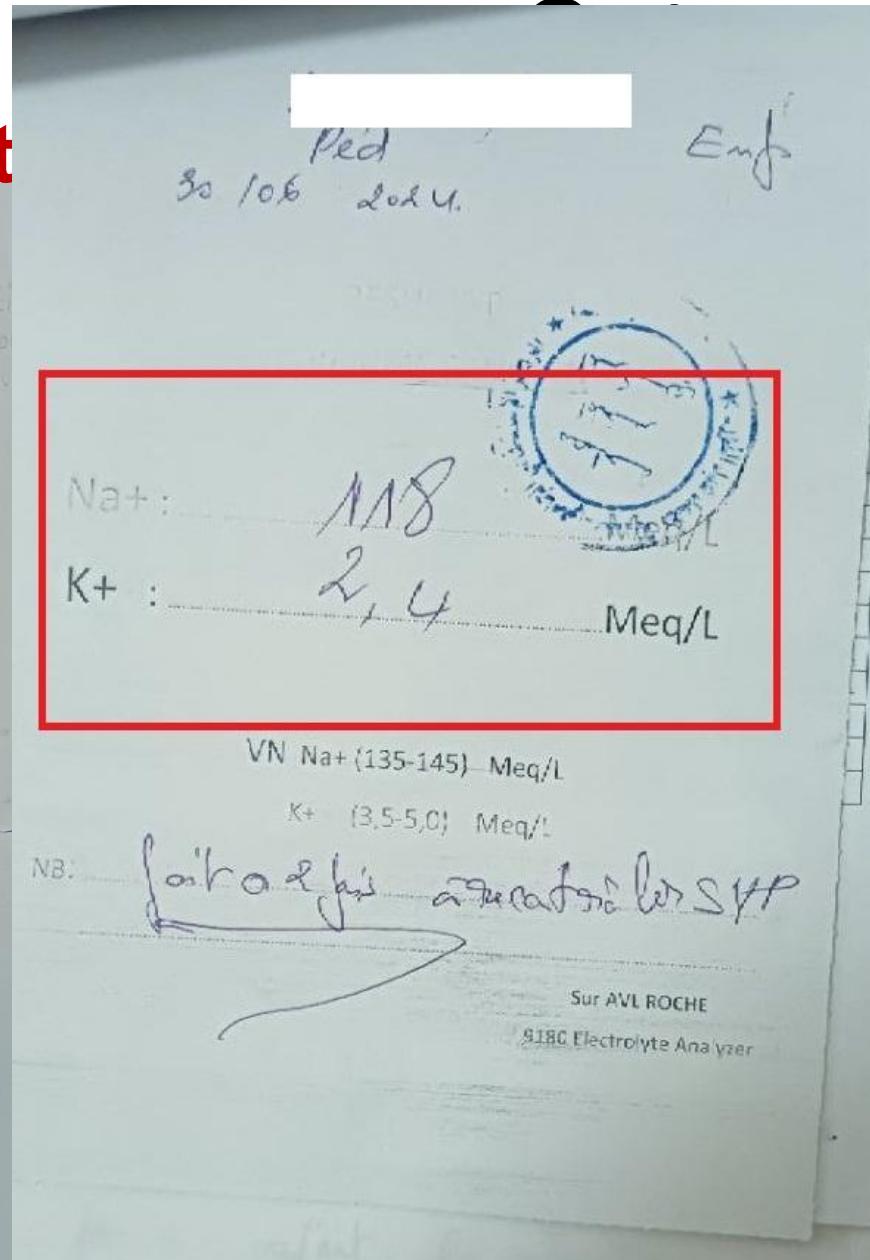
Bacteria	
Not Detected	Campylobacter
Not Detected	Clostridium difficile toxin A/B
Not Detected	Plesiomonas shigelloides
Not Detected	Salmonella
Not Detected	Vibrio
Not Detected	Vibrio cholerae
Not Detected	Yersinia enterocolitica
Diarrheagenic <i>E. coli</i> /Shigella	
Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EAEC)	
Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i> (EPEC)	
Enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (ETEC) <i>lt/st</i>	
Shiga-like toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC) <i>stx</i> <i>E. coli</i> O157	
Shiga/Enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> (EIEC)	
Parasites	
Cryptosporidium	
Cyclospora cayetanensis	
Entamoeba histolytica	
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	
Viruses	
Adenovirus F 40/41	
Astrovirus	
Norovirus GI/GII	
Rotavirus A	
Sapovirus	

**Protocol:** Stool FA v3.4  
**Operator:** 1  
**Instrument:** 2

Amoxicilline, Voriconazole,  
 oliclinomel,  
 polyvitamines..

Ciprofloxacin,  
 Flagyl, Fluconazole,  
 (NA,K) Correction ..

# Electrolyt

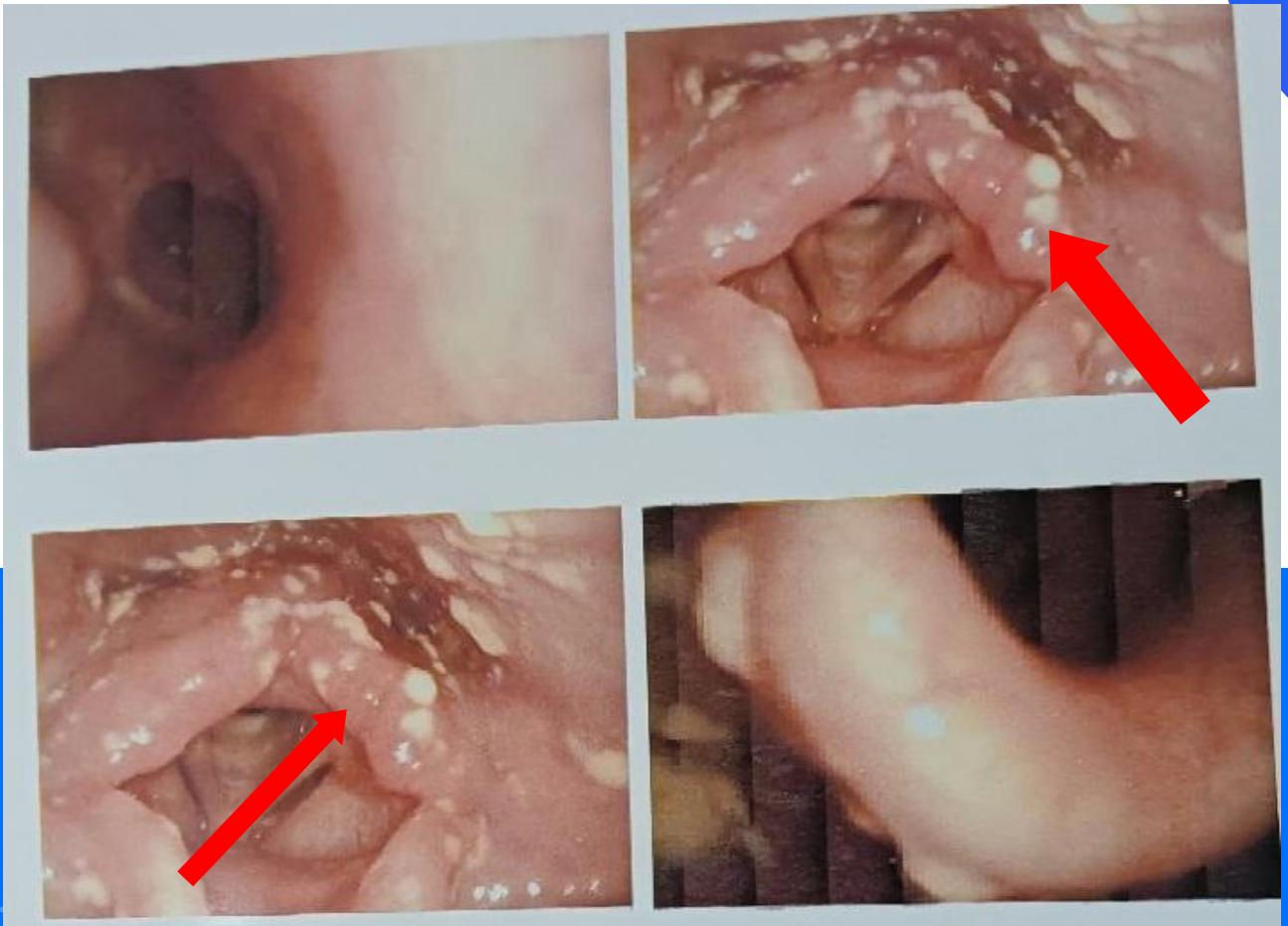


# Outcome

Recurrent infections continued  
(Respiratory distress, **mucositis**,  
**onychomycosis**...)



**Nasopharyngoscopy: Oropharyngeal mucositis**



# Outcome

Despite antibiotics and  
IVIG, due to malnutrition  
and poor response...

.

**the child passed away..**





# Discussion

# Discussion

SCID is a rare disorder with severe T, B, NK cell deficiency.

Asymptomatic at birth, symptoms in early infancy.

## Case Report

### A case report of severe combined immunodeficiency: Masquerading as sepsis

Subhranshu Sekhar Dhal<sup>1</sup>, Hiremath Sagar<sup>2</sup>, Rajiv Aggarwal<sup>3</sup>, Anil Kumar Sapare<sup>4</sup>, Minal Kekatpure<sup>5</sup>

From <sup>1</sup>Resident, <sup>2</sup>Pediatric Intensivist, <sup>3</sup>Head, <sup>4</sup>Pediatric Pulmonologist, <sup>5</sup>Pediatric Neurologist, Department of Pediatrics, NH Health City, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

**S**evere combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is usually an autosomally recessive inherited primary immunodeficiency disease which typically occurs in infancy [1]. However, 80% of cases are sporadic in occurrence [2]. Infants with SCID are highly susceptible to severe infections [3]. Diarrhea, pneumonia, otitis media, sepsis, and cutaneous infections are the common manifestation. Opportunistic infections such as *pneumocystis carinii*, *candida*, and *cytomegalovirus* are potential threats. It is a true pediatric emergency as death usually occurs by 2 years if untreated. Hematopoietic stem cell transplant and gene therapy are life-saving [4]. A newborn screening test helps to find out the disease even before the symptoms appear ensuring the affected infants receive life-saving treatments [5]. Here, we report a 5-month-old boy who presented with sepsis but had underlying SCID.

# Discussion

According to a study by Aluri et al. (2017)

Aluri J, Italia K, Gupta M, Dalvi A, Bavdekar A, Madkaikar M. Low T cell receptor excision circles (TRECs) in a case of ZAP 70 deficient severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) with a novel mutation from India. Blood Cells Mol Dis 2017;65:95-6.

In a study by Aluri *et al.* [16], the majority of patients of SCID presented at 6 months of age similar to our patient. However, in their study recurrent pneumonia (66%), failure to thrive (60%), chronic diarrhea (35%), gastrointestinal infection (21%), and oral candidiasis (21%) were the common presentations, while the

# Discussion

Antibiotic prophylaxis aims to prevent the onset of specific opportunistic infections

Stem cell transplantation remains the only curative treatment available. Gene therapy is considered if stem cell transplantation is not possible.

Mousa H, Al-Dakheel G, Jabr A, Elbadaoui F, Abouelhoda M, Baig M, et al. High incidence of severe combined immunodeficiency disease in saudi arabia detected through combined T cell receptor excision circle and next generation sequencing of newborn dried blood spots. *Front Immunol* 2018;9:782.

The best treatment for SCID is stem cell transplantation from the matched related donor and it should be done by 3 months of age. Aggressive treatment of infections is very essential to prevent mortality. Gene therapy if a bone marrow transplant is not possible. Transplantation of stem cells is the only cure currently [14]

# Conclusion



**Early diagnosis and timely interventions can improve outcomes.**



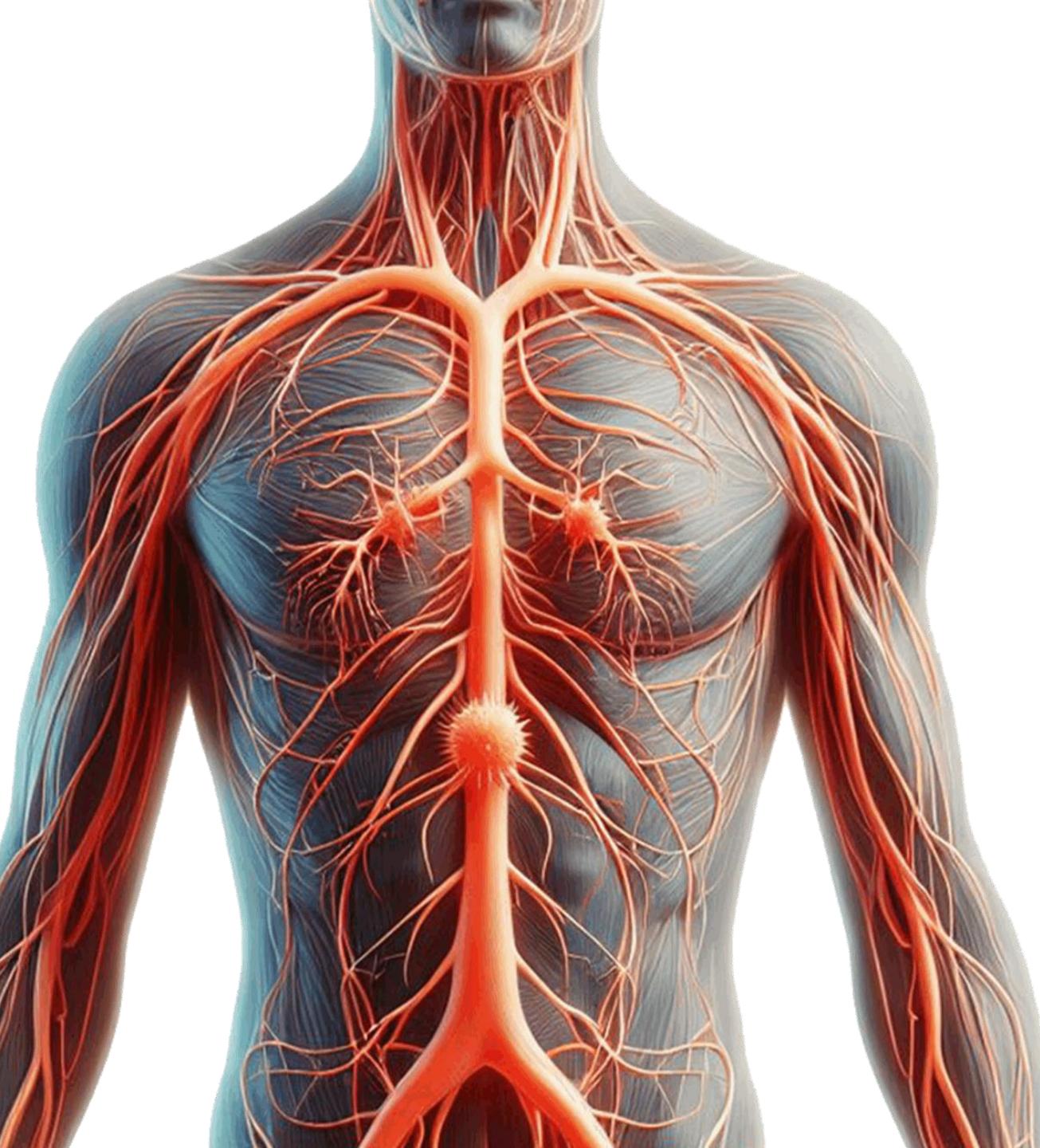
**Monitoring and individualized antibiotic therapy are crucial.**



**Molecular diagnostics=fast and accurate pathogen identification, guiding optimal therapy.**



**Stem cell transplantation is the only curative option.**



# Thank You!



✉ [guellatiimene67@gmail.com](mailto:guellatiimene67@gmail.com)