

VONNA ROSE 138

History of the present illness: This 54 y.o. Ethiopian female is carried to your location with the chief complaint of chills, vomiting, severe headache and general whole-body pain for the past 4 days. She was fine until this began during the wee hours of the morning earlier this week. She says it is unlike anything she has ever had before. The onset was very sudden, over a few hours.

Past medical and social history: Vonna is the wife of a ginger farmer and the mother of 9 children, the last 3 of whom are still at home. She also does pottery on the side. She has had malaria multiple times, a fractured right ankle from which she recovered, and one complicated delivery after which her tubes were tied. She is on no medications, has no allergies, and has had no immunizations.



Physical exam: Vonna is alert and appears to be very ill. Vital signs: T 103.3; P 118; R 28; BP 102/82. The skin is hot and dry. There is a fine, red rash over her upper trunk and upper limbs. The rash on her chest is shown in the picture on the right. Head is normal size and shape. Pupils are equal, round, and responsive to light. The patient objects to your shining a light into her eyes to check them. The whites of the eyes are white. Corneas are clear.

Inside the lower lids is redder than normal. The nose is normal shape and without sores; there is some dried blood visible. The outer ears, canals, and ear drums are normal in appearance. The teeth are few and decayed; the mouth is somewhat dry. The tonsils are normal size and color. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, front or back.



The thyroid is not enlarged. The patient can move her neck in all directions but it causes her pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. Bowel sounds are present and normal. Liver and spleen are both slightly enlarged and somewhat tender. The abdomen is soft and tender to touch but without rebound. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the groin. The kidney area in back is not tender. Arms and legs show no swelling. The patient can move her limbs in all directions but any movement brings complaints of pain. Respond. You must treat her yourself.

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Setting and past history:

Are there rats in the area? Yes

Has she encountered newborn animals? No

Has she been bitten by a rat? No

Does she have body lice? Yes, everyone does.

Has she been in any caves or abandoned houses or camps? No

Has she had any illicit sexual contacts? No

Has her husband been faithful to her? Definitely; he's around all the time, never goes anywhere.

Is her location rural or urban? Rural; she has never been in a city.

Has she eaten rare game or pork? No

Present illness:

Is she having bone pain? It's not general bone pain but joint pain.

Does she have sore muscles? Definitely

How long did it take from first symptoms to being bedridden? About 6 hours.

Which joints are involved? Almost all joints but in the limbs, not the trunk.

Are the joints of her hands painful? Yes, very.

Is the rash on her limbs? A little, but it is mainly on the trunk, more upper body than lower.

What is her mental state? Distressed but alert and reasonable.

Does she have eye pain? No

Did the fever and other symptoms start together or at different times?
Together

Is there rash on her palms and soles? No

Does she have a strange body odor? None

Laboratory: Urinalysis entirely normal; hemoglobin 85%.