

# Making the Case for a New Disease Entity: Bactrim Associated ARDS

A Call Away Telephone Triage

Jenna Miller, MD FAAP

Pediatric Critical Care Physician

Children's mercy Kansas city


# Disclosures and Disclaimers

- I encourage Tweeting @JennaMillerKC
  - #tmprsmxards
- All patients in the images used have provided written consent to be identified
- I may reference Bactrim throughout the presentation for ease but I am referring to all forms of Trimethoprim-Sulfamethaxazole
- I have paid consulting with Ocugen, INC.





# Objectives

- Describe the clinical presentation of rare lung toxicity associated with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
  - Describe the pathologic finds of rare lung toxicity associated with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
  - Recognize challenges in identifying rare adverse drug reactions
- 



Kansas City's Own  
Zei Uwadia

# The 16-year-old girl who walks and eats tacos while on life support

By Jacqueline Howard, CNN

🕒 Updated 10:34 AM ET, Wed March 21, 2018



CHILDREN'S MERCY, KANSAS CITY

How it Began  
March 2018





I saw the article about Zei on CNN.com and needed to attempt to reach someone. No one could tell me what caused my illness, but I've connected dots between myself and a few other young adults who became ill in a very similar way. I began taking Bactrim for acne about 3-4 weeks prior to the acute lung failure. This occurred in at least 3 other children between 12-20 years that I have gathered. The similarity between our cases are uncanny. When I heard about Zei, I couldn't help but wonder if she too had taken Bactrim.



I am not sure where to start with this email, but here it goes.

Our daughter was in a similar situation as the patient that you wrote the story about who is now on ECMO. Our daughter was a very healthy 17 year old kid who's only health issue was acne. She was prescribed Bactrim to help with it. A couple weeks later, she was in the intensive care unit in a medically induced coma on a ventilator.



Original Article

## Interstitial Lung Disease during Trimethoprim/ Sulfamethoxazole Administration

Syota Yuzurio<sup>a\*</sup>, Naokatsu Horita<sup>a</sup>, Yutaro Shiota<sup>a</sup>,  
Arihiko Kanehiro<sup>b</sup>, and Mitsune Tanimoto<sup>b</sup>

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<sup>b</sup>Department of Hematology, Oncology, Respiratory Medicine, and Allergology,  
Okayama University Medical School and Graduate School of Medicine,  
Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Okayama 700-8558, Japan

### CASE REPORT

## Acute fibrinous organising pneumonia: a manifestation of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole pulmonary toxicity

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Dakota, USA

**Correspondence to**  
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Accepted 15 October 2014

### SUMMARY

A 50-year-old man was treated with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) for acute arthritis of his right big toe. Within a few days, he developed dyspnoea, hypoxaemia and diffuse pulmonary infiltrates. Symptoms improved with discontinuation of the antibiotic but worsened again with its reintroduction. An open lung biopsy was performed. We describe the workup performed and the factors that pointed to a final diagnosis of TMP-SMX-related pulmonary toxicity in the form of acute fibrinous organising pneumonia.

### BACKGROUND

This is a case of an unusual manifestation of pulmonary drug toxicity in relation to a very commonly prescribed antibiotic.

### CASE PRESENTATION

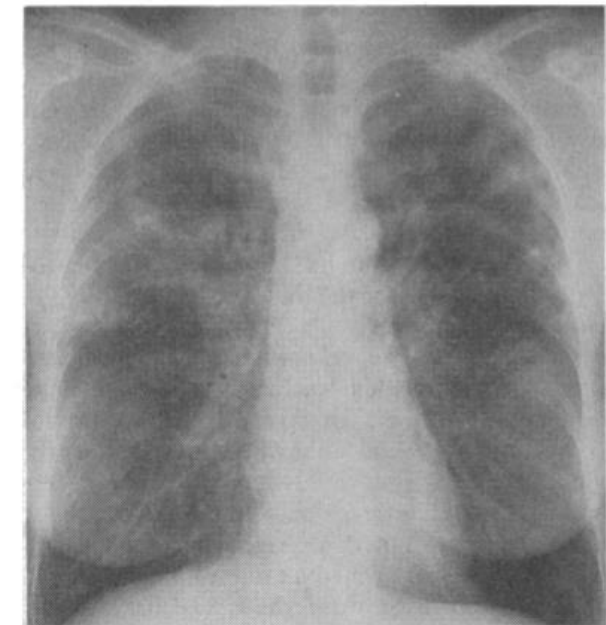
A 50-year-old man developed acute arthritis of the



**Figure 1** Bibasilar infiltrates with interstitial changes on initial presentation.

## Hypersensitivity pneumonitis induced by trimethoprim

Drs T HIGGINS (Department of Paediatrics) and P M NIKLASSON (Department of Infectious Diseases, Växjö County Hospital, S-385 17 Växjö, Sweden) write: We report on a patient who developed hypersensitivity pneumonitis induced by trimethoprim. A 43 year old woman with no history of allergy received a 25 day course of trimethoprim 100 mg/day in February 1989 for recurrent urinary tract infection. A new course was begun in September 1989. Four weeks later she presented with a two week history of a severe hacking cough and a five day history of fever, muscle pain, nausea, and headache. No other medications had been taken. The chest radiograph showed a nodular pattern of opacities (figure).



*Chest radiograph showing nodular pattern of opacities*



# Cor Pulmonale in Children With Acute Respiratory Failure on Venovenous Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation

Lung (2014) 192:1005  
DOI 10.1007/s00408-014-9642-1

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Pediatric Ambulatory ECMO

Don Hayes Jr. · Eric A. Lloyd · Andrew R. Yates ·  
Patrick I. McConnell · Mark Galantowicz ·  
Thomas J. Preston

Received: 4 July 2014 / Accepted: 1 September 2014 / Published online: 10 September 2014  
© Springer Science+Business Media New York 2014

To the Editor,

The current literature provides a modest experience regarding ambulating adult patients on venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO), with some older teens also reported. However, there is no previous report of ambulation in a younger child.

We report the ambulation of an 8-year-old child on VV-ECMO who developed acute respiratory distress syndrome due to a medication reaction to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole. At his initial presentation, he had developed fever, cough, and dyspnea soon after starting the antimicrobial coverage for osteomyelitis. With worsening respiratory status and facial swelling, he presented to a community pediatric facility where he was found to have a pneumothorax and was intubated. Due to refractory hypercapnia, he was transferred to a quaternary pediatric facility for implementation of VV-ECMO through cannulation of the internal jugular with a bicaval dual-lumen catheter. With a prolonged course in the intensive care unit, he underwent tracheostomy. To avoid complications from immobilization, he was ambulated on VV-ECMO and underwent active participation of physical therapy including riding a hand and foot-pedaled tricycle (Figure).



In a critical care setting especially with ECMO prolonged immobilization can result in skeletal atrophy and loss of muscle fibers, which can result in loss of muscle strength, decreased range of motion,

CHEST®  
Annual Meeting  
2017

TORONTO  
CANADA  
October 28 - November 1

## Diffuse Lung Disease

SESSION TITLE: Diffuse Lung Disease 2

SESSION TYPE: Original Investigation Poster

PRESENTED ON: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 01:30 PM - 02:30 PM

## Sulfa-Induced Acute Eosinophilic Pneumonia in Adolescents

Faria Nasim\* Jennifer Boland-Froemming and Mark Wylam Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

**PURPOSE:** In contrast to chronic eosinophilic pneumonia acute eosinophilic pneumonia (AEP) more commonly affects person's age 20-40 years old. AEP has been suggested to be an acute hypersensitivity reaction to an unidentified inhaled antigen in a previously healthy individual. Acute and organizing diffuse alveolar damage (DAD) is common, and in this age group AEP is responsive to corticosteroids, commonly with complete recovery.<sup>1,2</sup> Herein, we report 3 adolescents with severe AEP.

**METHODS:** Retrospectively, we identified 3 cases transferred to our institution that developed AEP in association with recent use of a sulfa medication. All patients presented with acute onset pulmonary infiltrates, fever and pneumomediastinum as well as marked peripheral eosinophilia. Referring hospitals did not perform BAL which was further delayed despite ECMO. In each case the onset was crescendo over 1 week duration, and occurred within 1 month of beginning a daily orally-administered sulfa-containing medication.

**RESULTS:** All 3 patients were female with a mean age of 15 years. 2 patients had received treatment with sulfamethoxazole for acne and 1 was treated with sulphasalazine for colitis. Patients were on Sulpha medication for 1-3 weeks prior to presentation. Mean eosinophil count was  $2.21 \times 10^9/L$ . 2 patients were treated with ECMO. 1 underwent heart-lung transplantation and 1 bilateral living-related lobar lung transplantation. In both cases lung biopsy and explants showed acute and organizing diffuse alveolar damage with increased interstitial and airspace eosinophils.

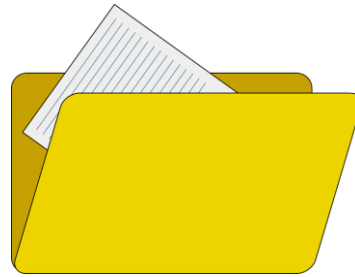
**CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first report to describe the clinical features of sulfa-induced severe AEP in a pediatric population. Compared to prior reports of AEP in young adults, sulfa-induced AEP in adolescents may follow brief use, elicit severe respiratory failure presenting with air leak and response to corticosteroids may be limited.

**CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS:** Sulfa-induced AEP is rare and manifests as severe acute respiratory failure that requires prompt recognition and management. References: 1. Philit F et al Idiopathic acute eosinophilic pneumonia: a study of 22 patients. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2002 Nov 1; 166(9):1235-9. 2. Allen JN, Pacht ER, Gadek JE, Davis WB. Acute eosinophilic pneumonia as a reversible cause of noninfectious respiratory failure. N Engl J Med. 1989;321(9):569.

**DISCLOSURE:** The following authors have nothing to disclose: Faria Nasim, Jennifer Boland-Froemming, Mark Wylam  
No Product/Research Disclosure Information



# Timeline



PEDIATRICS®

March  
2018

Fall  
2018

May  
2019

# PEDIATRICS®

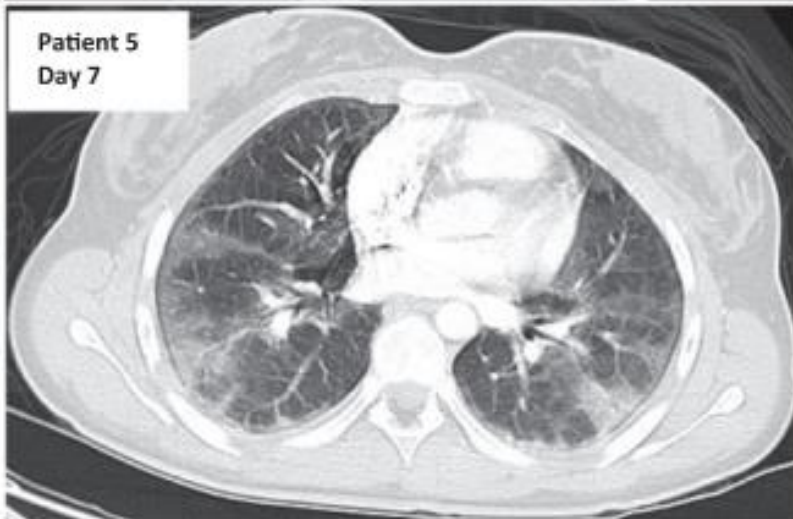
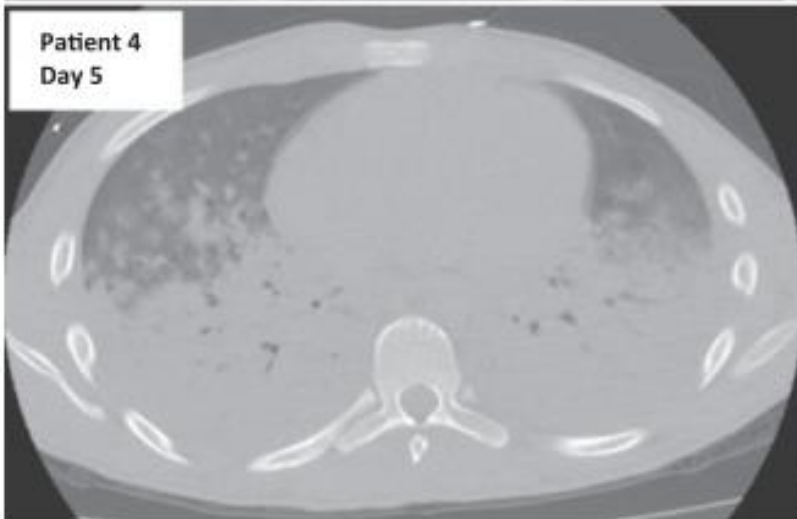
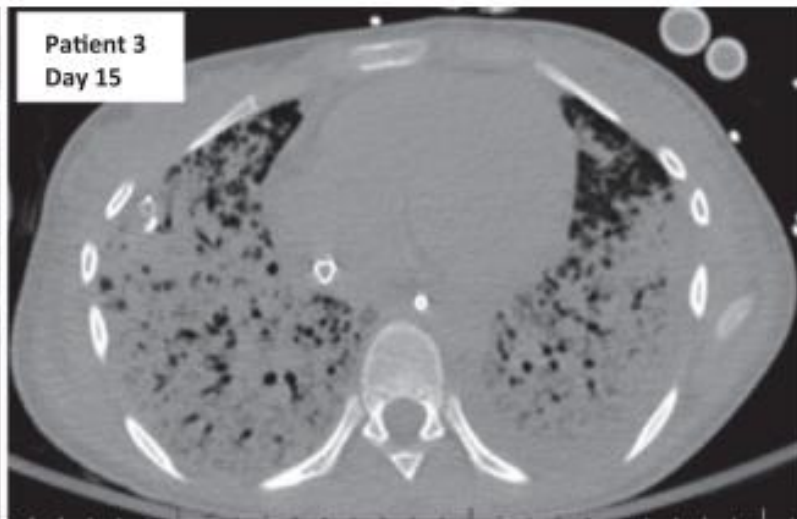
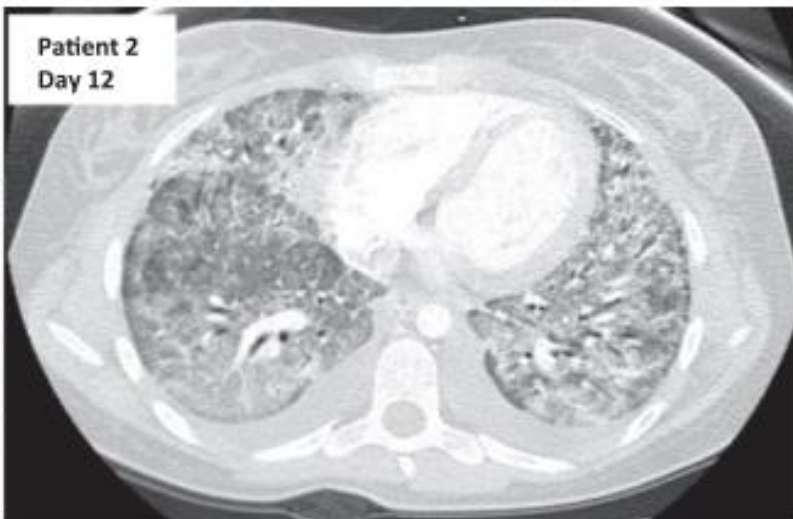
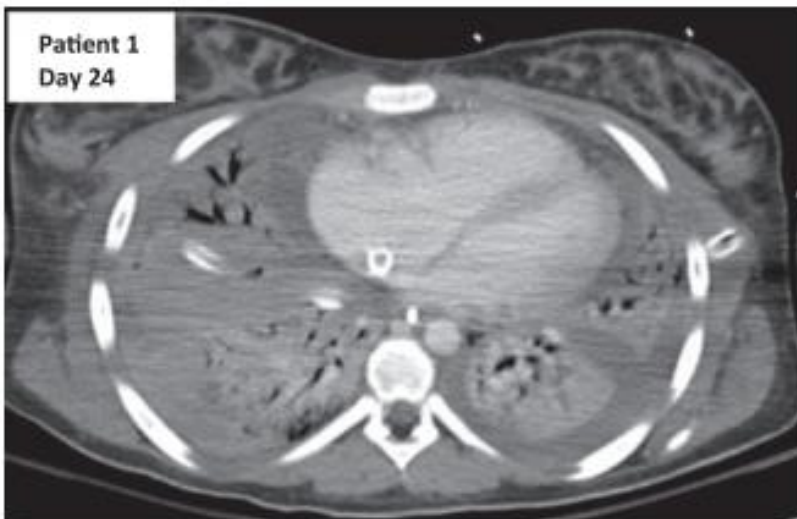
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

## Severe Acute Respiratory Failure in Healthy Adolescents Exposed to Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole

Jenna O. Miller, MD, FAAP,<sup>a</sup> Jane Taylor, MD, MS,<sup>b</sup> Jennifer L. Goldman, MD, MS<sup>c,d</sup>

**TABLE 1** Characteristics of Adolescent Patients With Severe Respiratory Failure and Recent TMP-SMX Exposure

	Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	Patient 4	Patient 5
Age, y	16	17	13	18	15
Sex	Female	Female	Female	Male	Female
Days of TMP-SMX exposure	24	17	25	23	10
Lung biopsy pathology	Not performed	Not performed	Diffuse alveolar damage, acute and organizing with increased eosinophils consistent with acute eosinophilic pneumonia	Not performed	Diffuse alveolar damage, acute and organizing with increased eosinophils consistent with acute eosinophilic pneumonia
Additional complications	Tracheostomy, pleural effusion pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum, renal failure	Tracheostomy, pleural effusion, pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum, pulmonary emboli	Tracheostomy, pleural effusion, pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum	Tracheostomy, pleural effusion, pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum, internal jugular thrombosis	Tracheostomy, pleural effusion, pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum, bilateral pulmonary emboli
Immunosuppressive therapy	Mycophenolate mofetil	Steroids	Steroids, hydroxychloroquine	Steroids	Steroids, azathioprine, rituximab, cyclophosphamide, plasma exchange
ECMO duration, d	193	N/A	114	29	190
Organ transplant	Lung, heart, and kidney transplants considered; not performed	Transplant not considered	Lung and heart transplant performed	Lung transplant considered; not performed	Lung transplant considered; not performed
Disposition	Survived	Survived	Died	Survived	Died

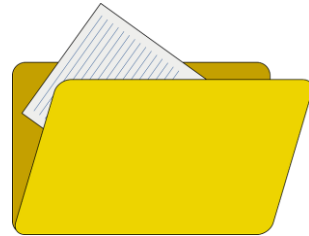




# Timeline

Hi Dr. Miller,

I saw the story of your patient Zei in the news and was struck by the potential similarity to two young patients we saw about two years ago with rapid and profound respiratory failure requiring ECMO. Yours is a particularly inspiring story and it's great that it raised so much attention and awareness.



PEDIATRICS®

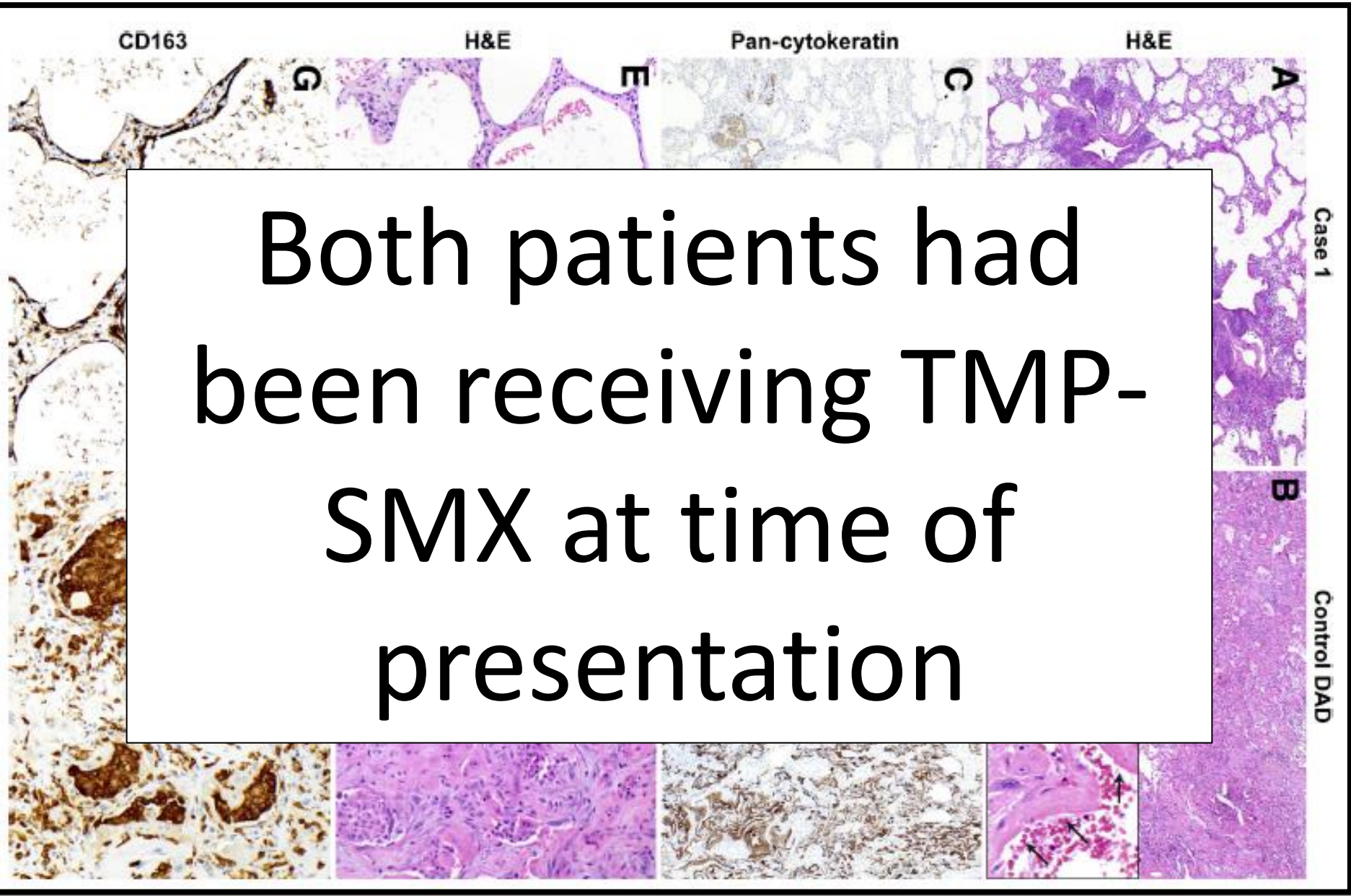
March  
2018

Fall 2018

February  
2019

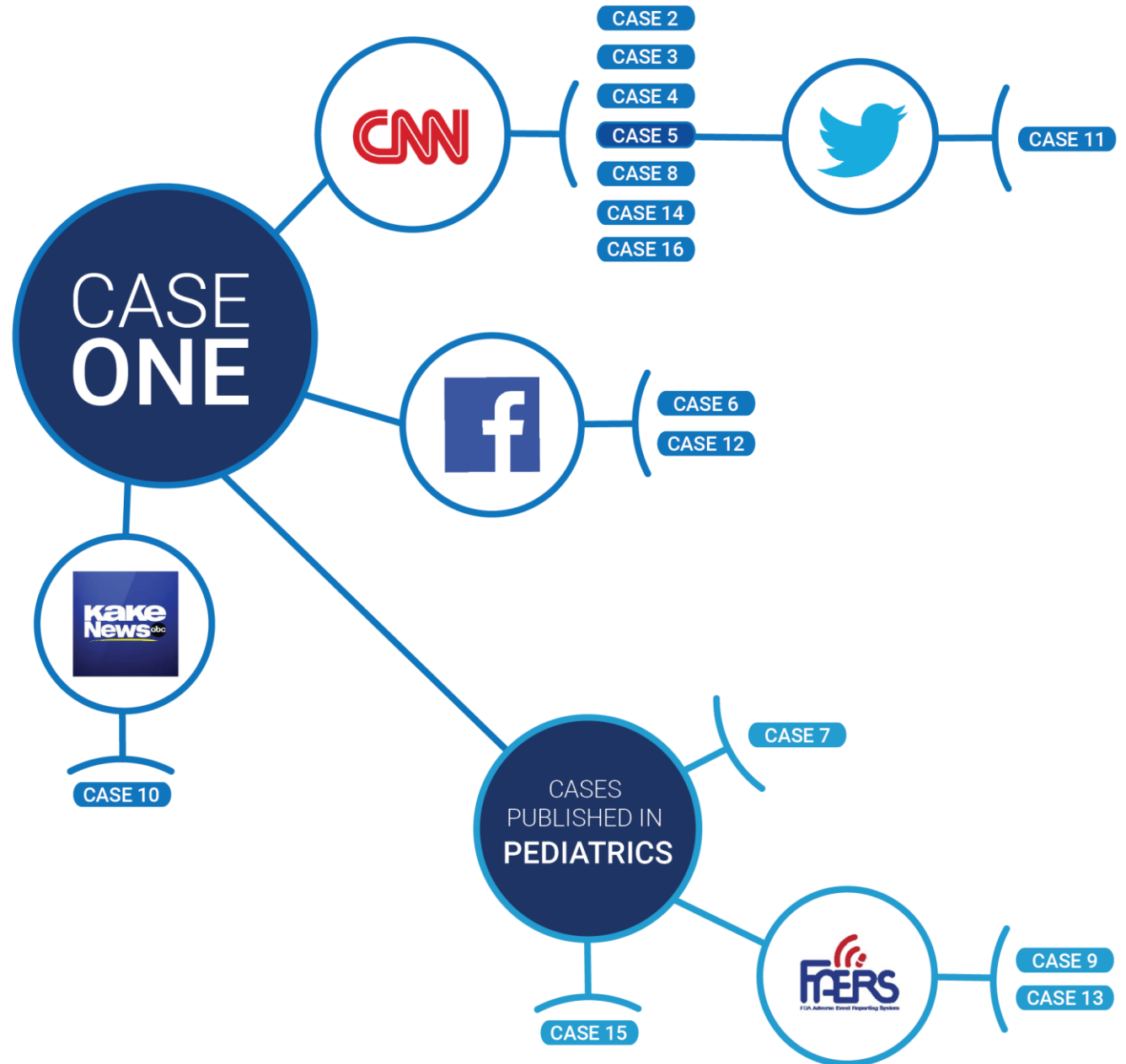
May  
2019

Both patients had  
been receiving TMP-  
SMX at time of  
presentation





# Media Finds a Way





# Print Media

## Reuters Administration

Product: Medical  
Pub date: 2019-05-31  
Byline: Marilyn Larkin  
Headline: Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole  
Body Text: By Marilyn Larkin  
NEW YORK (Reuters) — A link between trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and the development of acute respiratory distress syndrome in healthy adolescents was found in a new study.



Kansas City, Nov.

## KAKE Break in Wisconsin



By Taylor Adam

For nearly a year following the state's first case of COVID-19, the state died after spending millions of dollars at City hospital.

Now, a major breakthrough has been made with the



Medscape



News > Medscape Medical News

## Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole Linked to ARDS

Nicola M. Parry, DVM

June 03, 2019



Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole may be linked to the onset of acute respiratory distress syndrome according to a recent case report published May 31 in *Pediatrics*.

"Although there is no available evidence of causality between TMP-SMX and ARDS in these adolescents, the extensive negative workup, paired with recent TMP-SMX exposure and similarity among these cases, raises the possibility that the observed ARDS was TMP-SMX triggered," write Jenna O. Miller, MD, University of Missouri–Kansas City and Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics, and colleagues.



ARTICLE | July 28, 2020

## Researchers' Quest to Explain Popular Antibiotic Link to Respiratory Illness

Share 827 Tweet 84 Google+ 0 LinkedIn Share 53 Email Print



## Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole implicated in respiratory failure in five teens

# TV News Stories

KAKE NEWS INVESTIGATES: Antibiotic Breakthrough Update

Wednesday, March 3rd 2021, 4:50 PM CST  
Updated: Wednesday, March 3rd 2021, 10:34 PM CST  
written by Deb Farris



47° 10:14  
kake.com

KAKE NEWS INVESTIGATES: Antibiotic Breakthrough Update

Wednesday, March 3rd 2021, 4:50 PM CST  
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KANSAS CITY

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WICHITA, Kan.

KAKE NEWS INVESTIGATES: Antibiotic Breakthrough Update

Wednesday, March 3rd 2021, 4:50 PM CST  
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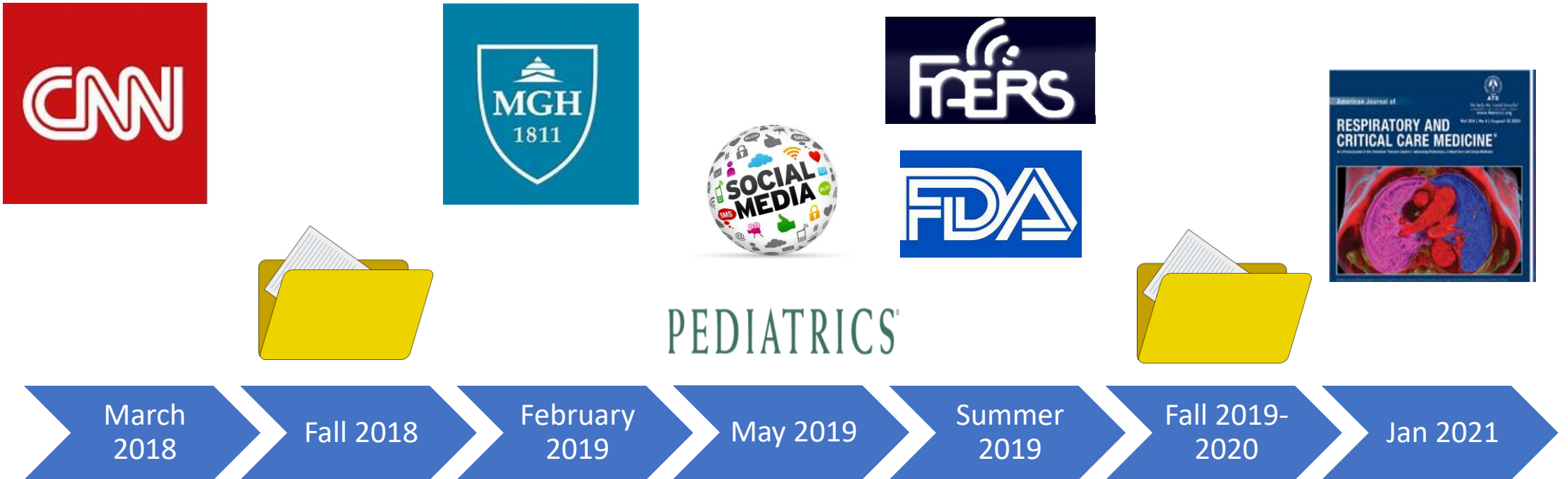


WICHITA, Kan.

# Social Media



# Timeline







# American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine

Publishes the most innovative research, highest quality reviews, clinical trials, guidelines, and statements in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep-related fields

➤ [Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2021 Apr 1;203\(7\):918-921. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202009-3421LE.](#)

## Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole-associated Fulminant Respiratory Failure in Children and Young Adults

[Jenna O Miller](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Angela R Shih](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Mari Mino-Kenudson](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Martin S Taylor](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Jennifer L Goldman](#)<sup>1</sup>

Hot off the press



***HLA-B\*07:02 and HLA-C\*07:02 are associated with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole respiratory failure***

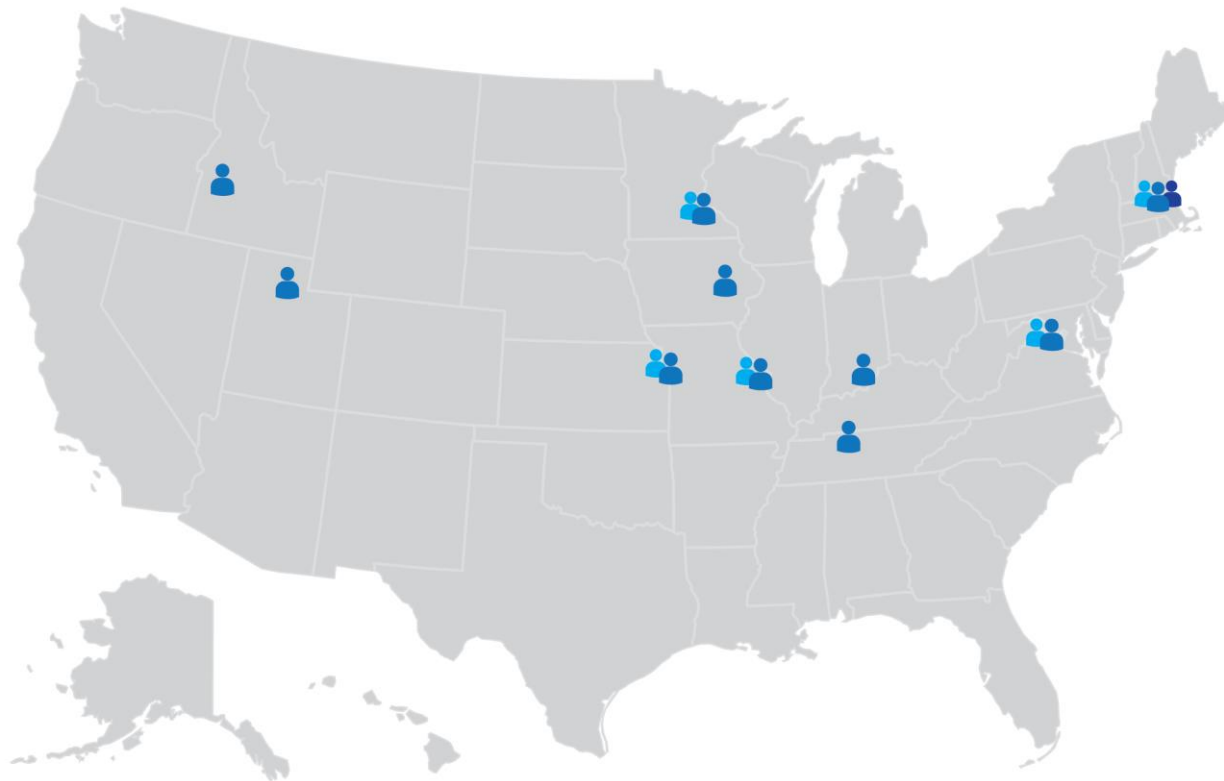
[Jennifer L. Goldman](#) , [Jenna O. Miller](#), [Neil Miller](#), [Robert Eveleigh](#), [Andrew Gibson](#), [Elizabeth J. Phillips](#) & [Tomi Pastinen](#)

# Inclusion Criteria

- No previous pulmonary disease
- No other cause for respiratory failure
- Documented TMP-SMX exposure  $\geq 6$  days
- All medical records available to verify history and TMP-SMX exposure
- Minimal to no vaping or smoking history



# Geographical Distribution





# Current Cohort of 19

13 females, 6 males

16 Caucasian, 2 Asian, 1 Mixed

Indications:

- 9 acne
- 6 SSTI
- 2 ENT procedure
- 1 UTI

# Bactrim Exposure Profile

Treatment dosing, DS

NO prophylactic dosing cases

Range of time taking prior to onset of symptoms

- 6-28 days
- Mean 16 days



# Initial Symptoms

Non specific symptoms can include: cough, fever, SOA, chest pain, sore throat, fatigue, headache, congestion, rash

Important question: Are these NEW since starting the antibiotic?



Most Common:

- Fever 80%
- Cough 80%
- Fatigue 55%
- Chest Pain 50%
- SOA 50%

# Hospital Presentation Symptoms

Symptoms can include: Hypoxemia, SOA, Chest pain, fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue

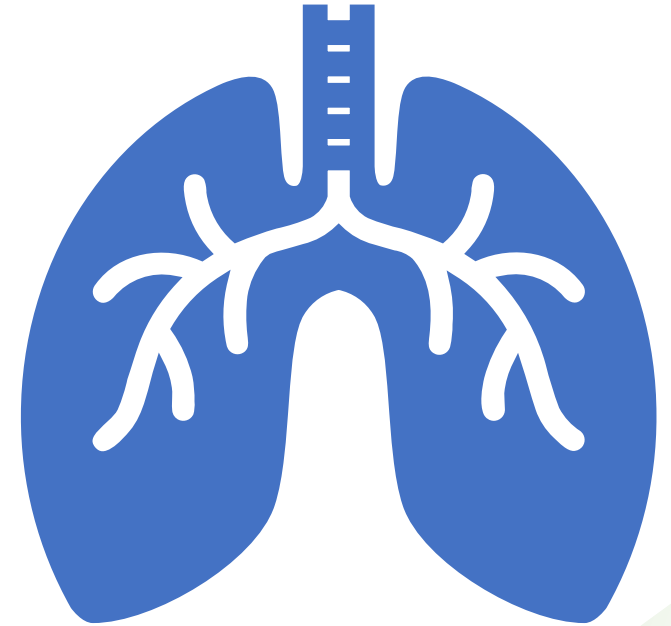
## Most Common:

- SOA 100%
- Hypoxemia 80%
- Cough 66%
- Chest Pain 50%
- Fatigue 33%



# Chest Pain in Kids?

- Seems uncommon compared to adults
- One finding specific to this disease could explain
- Half of these patients present with pneumomediastinum when admitted
  - This often causes chest pain
- Air leak, or pneumomediastinum/pneumothorax early is a hallmark of this disease

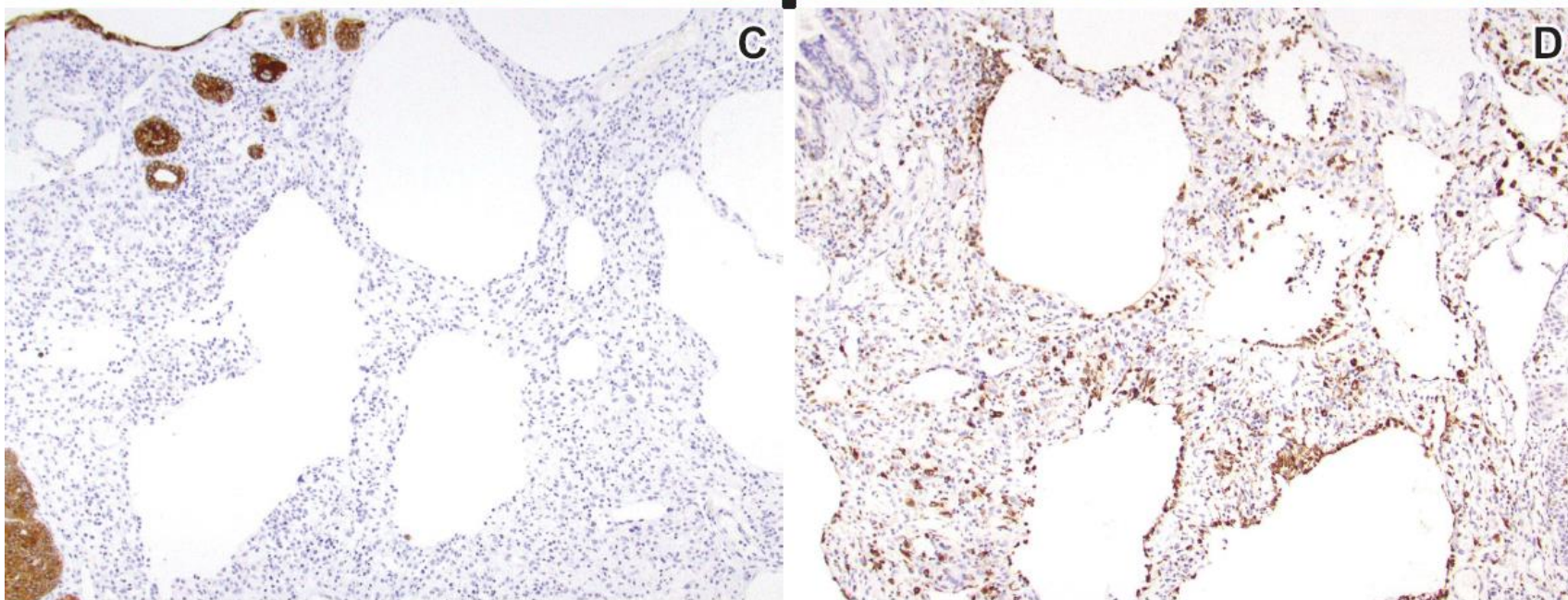
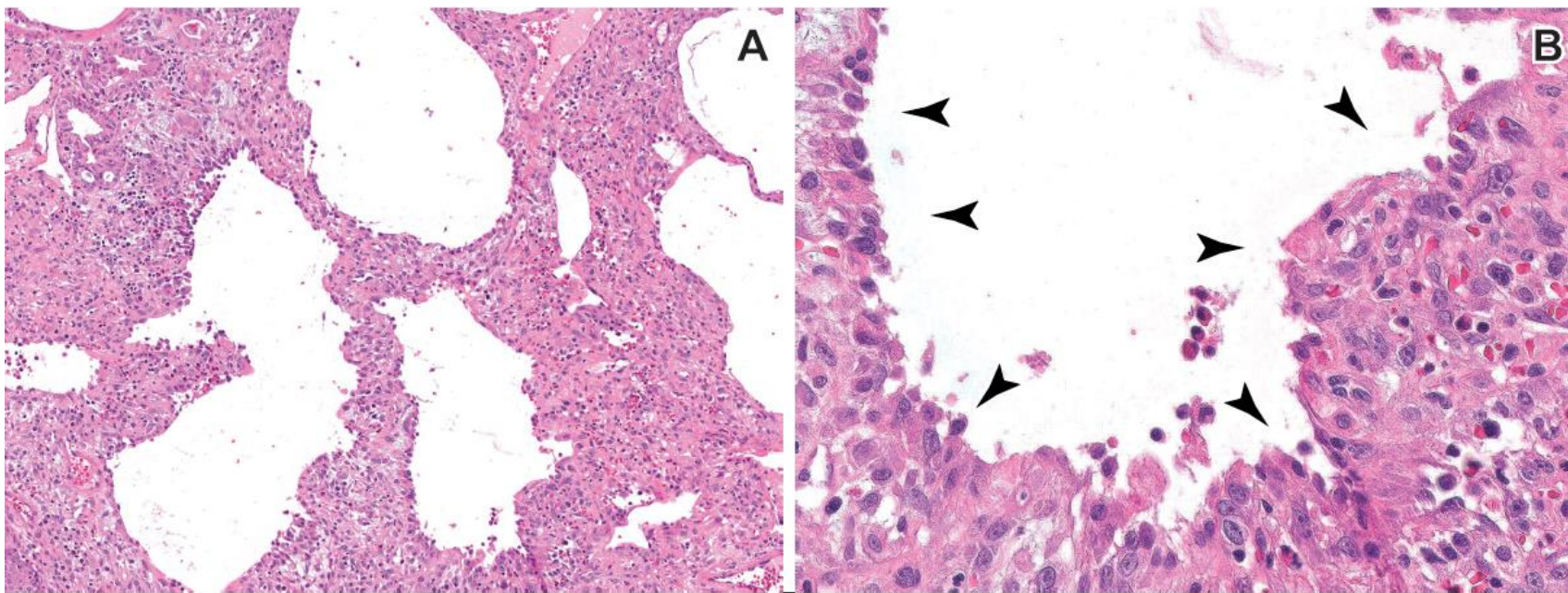


# Pathology

<b>Lung pathology - no./total no. (%)</b>	9/14 (64)	
Biopsy or autopsy consistent with DAIDE*	7/9 (78)	

- 9 tissue samples available
  - Autopsy, explant or biopsy
- 7 samples consistent with **Diffuse Alveolar Injury with Delayed Epithelialization (DAIDE)**
- 1 explant sample was 3 months into process
- 1 biopsy sample was peripheral and small, thus inconclusive

Diffuse Alveolar Injury with  
Delayed  
Epithelialization



Cytokeratin lack of epithelial cells

CD68 highlighting macrophages

*Courtesy of  
Pulmonary  
Pathology  
Department  
Massachusetts  
General Hospital*

# Outcomes

Prolonged hospital stays

16/19 needed ECMO

- 2 from the 90's before ECMO was utilized

7/19 died ~ 40% mortality

- 2 from disease
- 1 sepsis
- 2 post transplant complications
- 2 hemorrhagic complications



# Is it Really TMP-SMX?



INCREASED USE  
OF ECMO



INCREASED  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
USE



DIFFERENT  
MANUFACTURERS



NO VAPING OR  
SMOKING  
HISTORY

# Label change may 2021

**Rx only**

**BACTRIM™**

sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim DS  
(double strength) tablets and tablets USP

Other severe pulmonary adverse reactions occurring within days to week of BACTRIM initiation and resulting in prolonged respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), lung transplantation or death have also been reported in patients and otherwise healthy individuals treated with sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim products.

# What advice can you give?

- If these symptoms are new and different from indication for which Bactrim was prescribed...
  - Stop the drug and be seen in an ER
  - Let prescribing clinician know of new symptoms
- Think about your advice if they call with new rash after Bactrim and Stevens Johnson is possible... that raises alert and concern
- Many of these patients were told this type of reaction to Bactrim doesn't exist so we can now take their symptoms seriously
- This is RARE, but you may help someone by knowing about this reaction

# Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole Associated Fulminant Respiratory Failure in Children and Young Adults

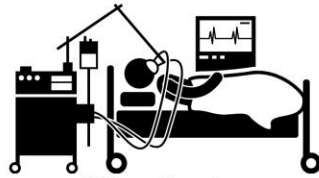
An underappreciated severe adverse drug reaction to a commonly prescribed antibiotic.



Fourteen healthy children and young adults exposed to **TMP-SMX (Bactrim®)**.



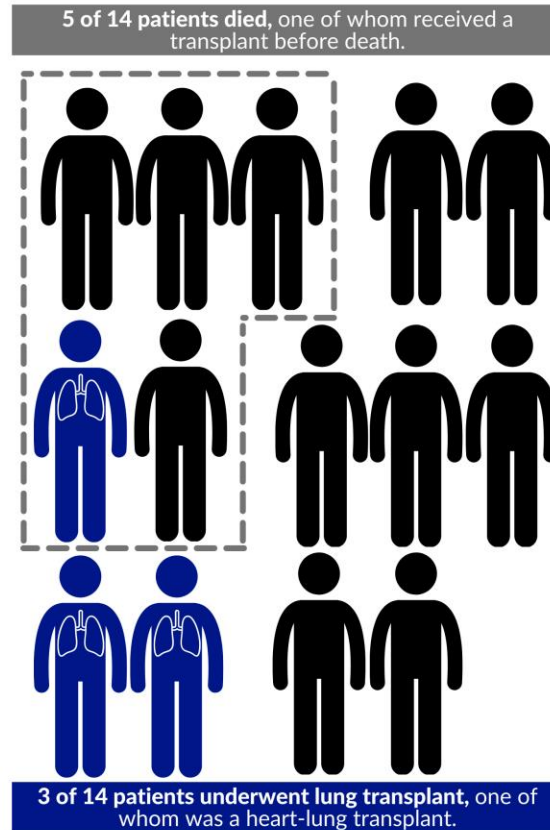
**Key Outcome:**  
Twelve of the 14 patients in this study required Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).



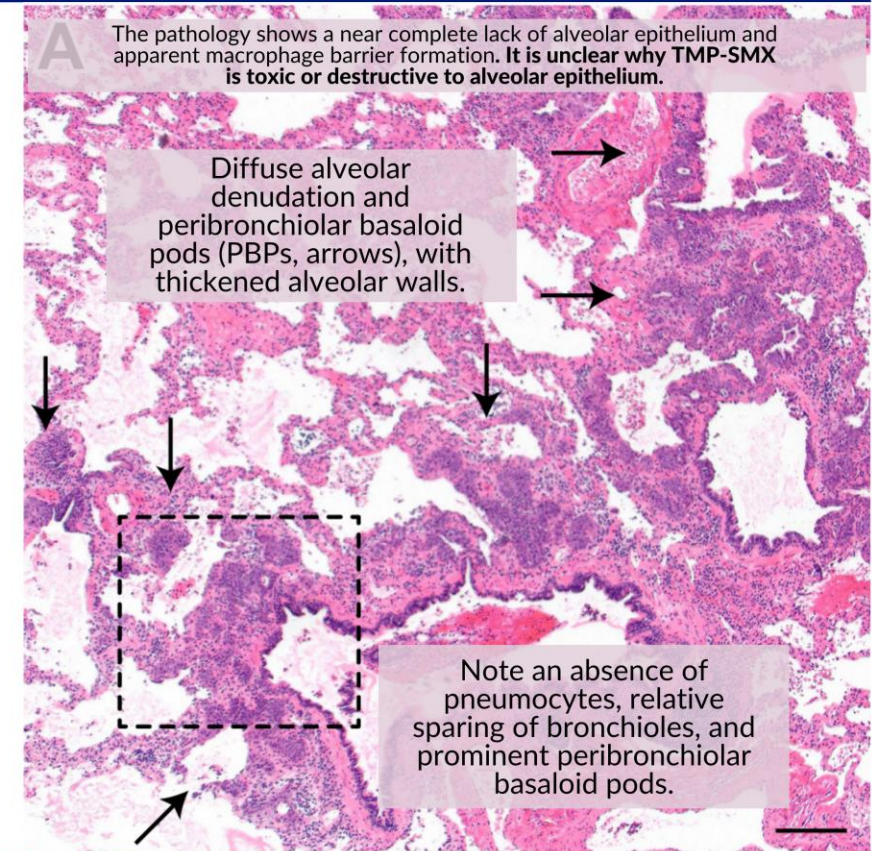
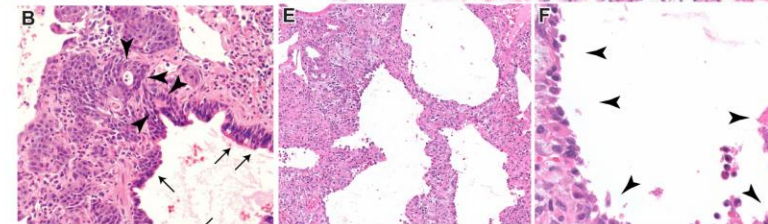
All patients presented with **shortness of breath**, required **intensive care admission**, and needed **mechanical ventilation**.



Presentation with **air leak** was common and initial CTs showed extensive **ground glass opacities** and **consolidation**.



Seven of seven patients with appropriately-timed biopsies demonstrated a pattern of injury consistent with **Diffuse Alveolar Injury with Delayed Epithelialization**.



Thickened alveolar walls lack hyaline membranes or pneumocytes (E) and are lined by macrophages (F).  
Alveolar pneumocytes are replaced by CD68-positive macrophages.

Join the conversation: @ATSBlueEditor, #pulmCC  
Connect with the authors on Twitter: @Jgmanpc, @JennaMillerKC, @MSTaylor\_MDPhD, @AngelaRShih

Jenna O. Miller, MD, Angela R. Shih MD, Mari Mino-Kenudson MD, Martin S. Taylor MD, PhD, Jennifer L. Goldman MD  
American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine

Graphic Design by: Tricia Pendergrast @traependergrast



# Continue to Follow The Developments

- remember me on Twitter  
@JennaMillerKC
- #tmpsmxards for stories or to follow



# IN Summary-This is a thing

- Early recognition of this as an entity could possibly decrease severity if drug is stopped earlier
- Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole can be associated with severe ARDS and prolonged ECMO need
- Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole can be associated with a novel pathology finding called diffuse alveolar injury with delayed epithelialization

# Thank you

*To our patients and families who have been courageous in their quest  
to share knowledge and raise awareness*



**Co Investigators:**

Jennifer Goldman, Mari Mino-  
Kenudson, Angela Shih and Martin  
Taylor



**Clinical Coordinators and Support Staff**

Esteban Marquez and Amy Moran



**Graphic Designs**

Ashley Saunders and Tricia Pendergrast

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