

The full report is titled: "Pearls and Pitfalls: Noninfectious complications of common variable immune deficiency." It is in the March–April 2019 issue of *Allergy Asthma Proceedings* (volume 40, pages 129 to 132). The principal author is Lisa J. Kobrynski.

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Noninfectious complications of common variable immune deficiency

Primary immunodeficiency (PI) diseases are a group of >350 rare, chronic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or functions improperly. Although not contagious, these diseases are caused by hereditary or genetic defects, and, although some disorders present at birth or in early childhood, the disorders can affect anyone, regardless of age or gender. The immune system is basically composed of two parts: (1) the innate immune system (the part we are born with), which consists of white blood cells that protect us by ingesting and destroying bacteria and other microbes; and (2) the adaptive immune system (the part that develops after birth), which consists of two types of lymphocytes (B cells make antibodies that coat and kill bacteria and other microbes; T cells protect us against viral infection and cancer by destroying infected or malignant cells).

One of the most common symptoms of PI diseases is infections that are more frequent, longer lasting, or harder to treat than are the infections in someone with a normal immune system. There are other lesser-known symptoms that patients with PI diseases display, such as autoimmune disorders, in which the immune system is misdirected to attack the body's tissues and causes disease that affect the skin, joints, and gastrointestinal system. Common variable immune deficiency (CVID) is a PI disease due to defective B-cell maturation. In a recent report, Kobrynski, from the Division of Allergy/Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, provided a practical review of the diagnostic and treatment parameters of CVID and offered some useful recommendations for evaluation and management of the condition.

Who or What Was Proposed to Be Studied?

A case of a woman with CVID with autoimmunity and gastrointestinal complications is presented, with a discussion of the recognition and treatment of infectious and noninfectious complications.

How Was the Study Done?

Review of literature and the author's patient experiences.

What Are the Limitations of the Proposed Study?

The report is subject to limitations that result from it being based on a single-center perspective.

What Are the Implications of the Study?

Although patients with CVID most frequently present with symptoms of recurrent infection, some patients may also present with noninfectious complications, such as inflammatory diseases of the lung and gastrointestinal tract, as illustrated by this patient; when these complications occur, they must be properly diagnosed and managed. □