

## The Clinical Presentation of Thrombotic Microangiopathy

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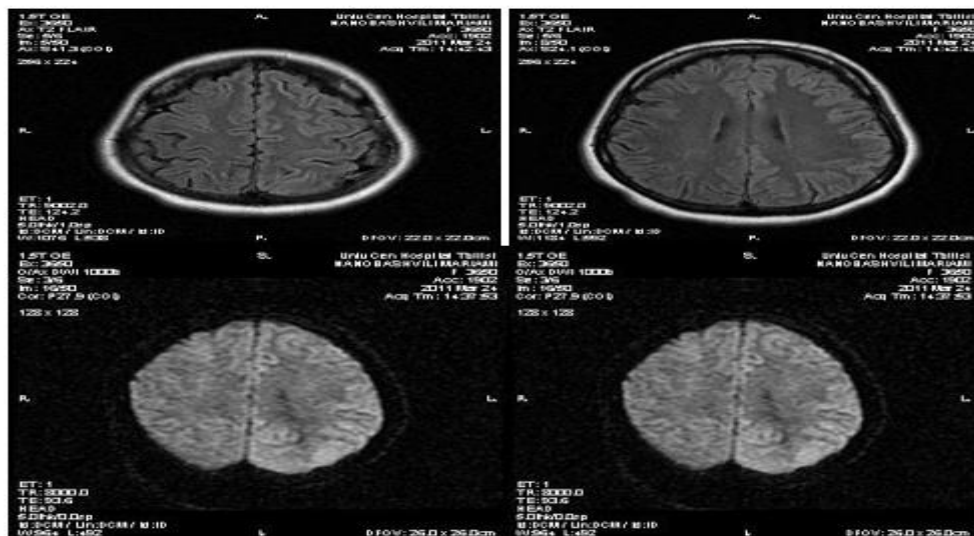
**KEY WORDS:** HUS, renal replacement therapy, coma, vena cava thrombosis

### INTRODUCTION

Thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) is characterized by thrombocytopenia, microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia and end organ damage. Microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia is caused by red blood cell fragmentation in the microvasculature, with schistocytes seen on peripheral blood film. Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) is raised due to tissue ischemia and cell lysis. Low plasma haptoglobin is a marker of haemolysis as it binds to free haemoglobin and the complex is cleared by macrophages. Coombs test is generally negative. Renal involvement is common to most TMAs due to its vulnerability to occlusion and endothelial damage. ADAMTS13 is an enzyme, which cleaves von Willebrand factor (VWF).<sup>2</sup> Deficiency of ADAMTS13 in TTP results in the formation of ultra large VWF multimers on the endothelium. Platelet attachment to these ultra large multimers occurs in high shear conditions, hemolysis is typically not immune mediated, the direct antiglobulin (Coombs) test is negative. Notably, the clinical findings of MAHA and thrombocytopenia are not universal. Individual features vary,<sup>3,4</sup> and TMA can be identified on tissue biopsy even in the absence of hematologic abnormalities. This is especially true in subacute or chronic TMA, which may

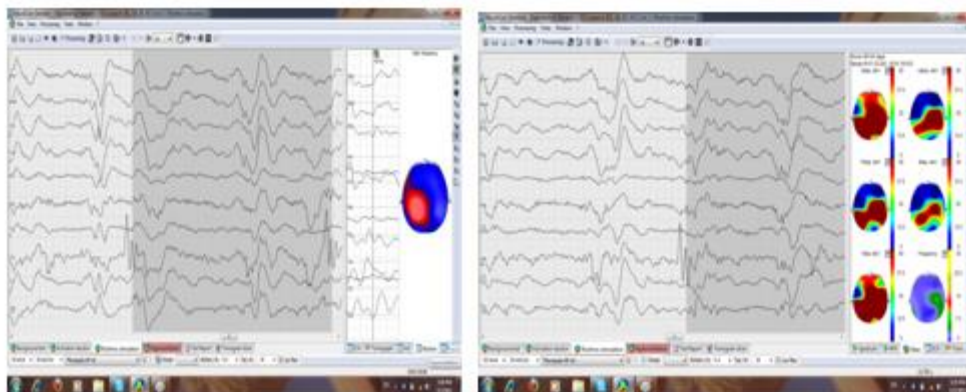
represent a smoldering or previously active process.<sup>6</sup> HUS and TTP is syndroms ,characterized with microangiopathic hemolytic anemia , thrombocytopenia , acute renal failure ,severe neurological violations. In patients with TTP, severely deficient ADAMTS13 activity has been seen in 25–79% of cases at presentation, whereas HUS is not associated with any reduction in activity or absence of ADAMTS13. The combination of clinical and laboratory data, activity of ADAMTS13, and response to plasma exchange allows for better differentiation between these thrombotic microangiopathies,

Case-- 32 years old woman was admitted in ICU with oligoanuria, chills. Diseases started with diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain ,oliguria ,fever .Changes of awareness revealed after generalized seizures MRI detected (Flair mode)—cortex damage of left temporal –occipital area (pic2), Lumbar aspirate—protein—0.48g/l, leucocytes—7/mm<sup>3</sup>, lymph—68%, neutrophils—32%. In lumbar aspirate was detected HSV 1 virus. After treatment with aciclovir and repeated investigation of lumbar aspirate , HSV 1 virus was not found .Antibacterial treatment was based on bacteriological investigations and suitable antibacterial therapy.



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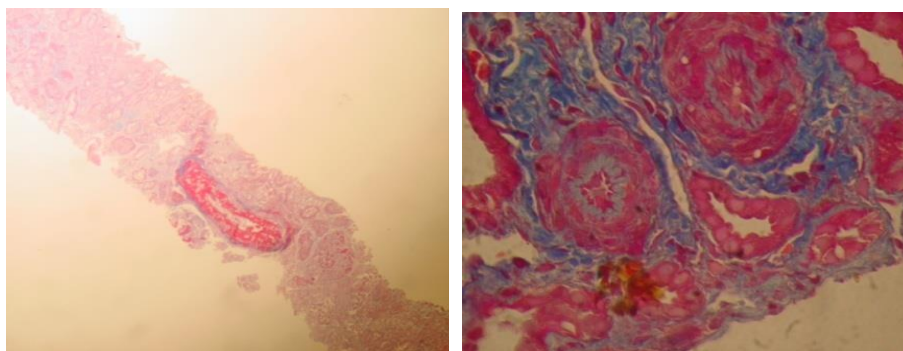
After episodes of focal seizures, EEG revealed generalized spike slow wave activity (pict.1)



Renal biopsy was found 20 glomerulus, in 9 glomerulus was discovered necrotic changing (focal cortical necrosis), in 5 glomerulus --- complex replication of basement

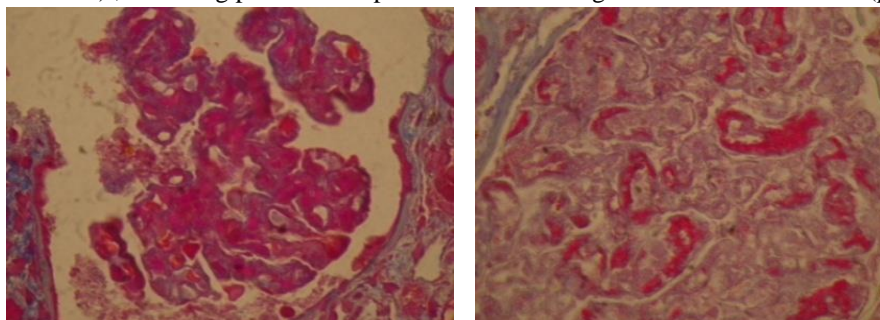


(pict 3,4) membrane and enlargement of mesangial matrix



pict.4 Renal biopsy material

In preglomerular arterioles revealed fibrosis of intima, thrombus into lumen and arterial-arterioles sclerosis. 35% of tubules was necrotized (focal cortical necrosis), remaining part was atrophic with thickening of basement membrane. (pict 5)



In arterial walls and focal glomerulus was found fibrin/fibrinogen deposits (pict 3,4,5). ADAMTS-13 activity was

normal -64.9% (N40-130), ADAMTS-13 antigen was 0.46u/ml, slightly decreased, and antibody was not found

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.ADAMTS inhibitor –3.5 u/ml(N<12u/l). At first platelets count was decreased—80000/mm<sup>3</sup>,then platelets count

returned to normal value. Immunity parameters was normal(schedule1)

### Sched.1 Immunological tests

<b>CD3 lymphocytes—65%</b>	<b>IgG 14.3g/l(N8-18)</b>
<b>CD4 lymphocytes –45%(N29-57)</b>	<b>IgA 3.4g/l(N 0.9-2.5)</b>
<b>CD4—abs.number—1431(N404—1612)</b>	<b>IgM—0.2g/l(N0.6—2.8)</b>
<b>CD8lymphocytes—20%(N11-38)</b>	<b>IgE—9.19 g/l (N&lt;200)</b>

Antinuclear antibody was not found . In peripheral blood revealed leucocytosis: white blood cell count—41000/mm<sup>3</sup>, anisocytosis, shisocytosis, poikilocytosis, Neutrophils count

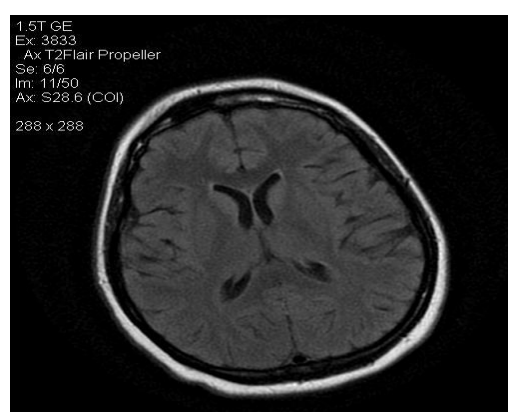
31.4mg/d l Secondary coagulation hemostasis was changed :decreased antithrombin III, increased soluble fibrin-monomer complex(sched.2)

### Shed.2 Tests of coagulation hemostasis

<b>FDP --21mg%</b>	<b>AT-III----70%</b>
<b>D-dimer 9000 ng/ml(&lt;500ng/ml)</b>	

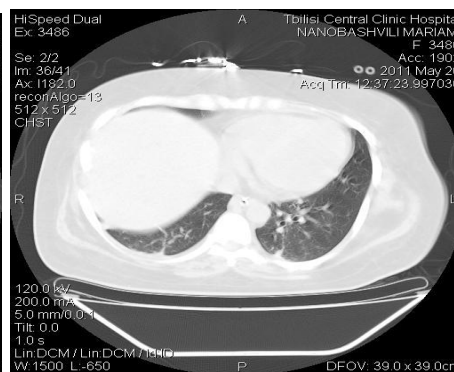
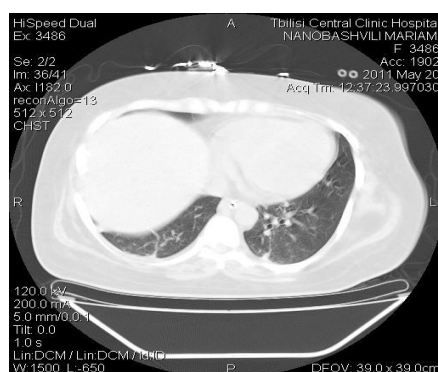
Chest Ct scan ---detected pneumonia, abdominal CT scan--fluid accumulation .Brain MRI—detected (T2,Flair) ischemic damage in left subcortical nodes(pict6) Brain

MRI—detected (T2,Flair) ischemic damage in left subcortical nodes(pict6)



After 25 day from hospitalization neurological state improved, awareness was adequate, without cognitive

violations. lasted renal replacement therapy . Chest Ct scan (pict8) detected improument of lung radiological findings.

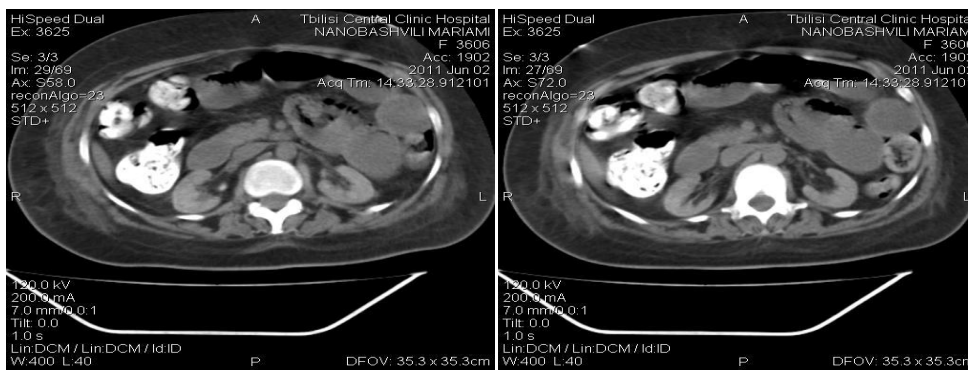


Pict8. Chest CT scan

Patient was extubated, parameters of spontaneous breathing was normal. After one weak revealed abdominal distension,vomiting .Abdomen CT scan and angiography

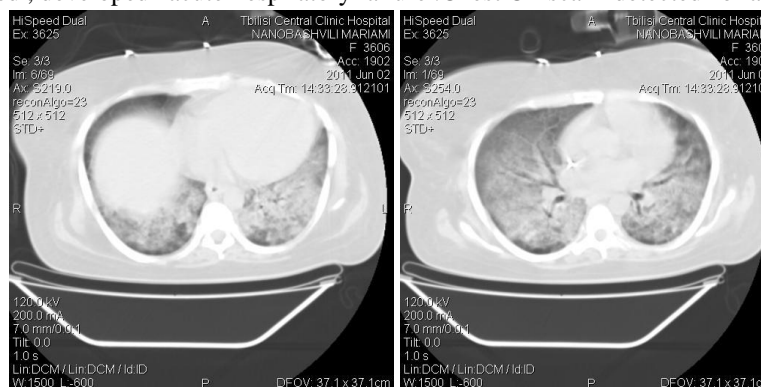
was found bowel distension, dynamic obstruction and excluded mezenteric thrombosis. (pict 9)

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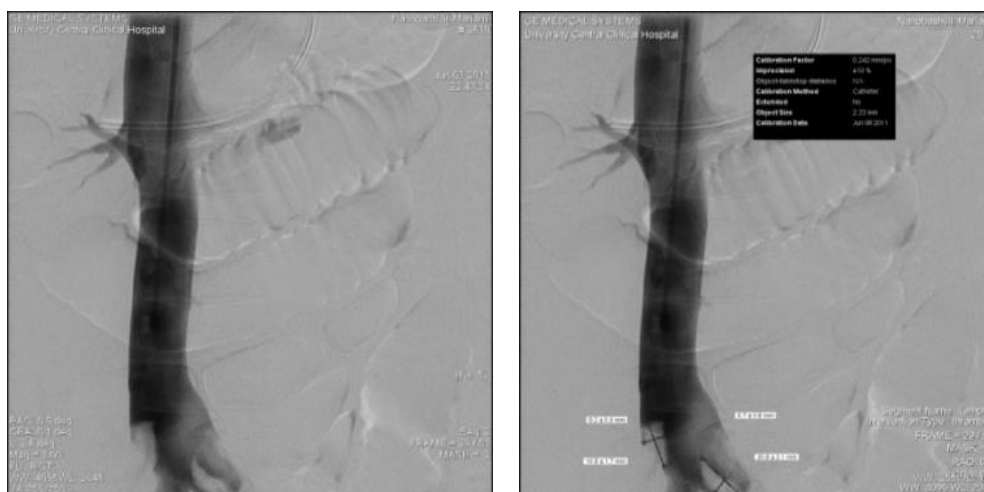
**Pict9. Abdomen CT scan**

Later patient state was aggravated, developed acute respiratory failure. Chest CT scan detected bilateral pneumonia. (pict 10)



Low extremity vessels ultrasonography revealed thrombus in common femoral, deep femoral vein. Despite suitable treatment, ventilation parameters worsened. Echocardiography revealed dilation of right chambers, increased PASP (65mm.hg). Low extremity vessels ultrasonography revealed thrombus in left external

iliac and great saphenous vein. After cavography in vena cava bifurcation area detected filling defects - thrombus - 8.2X16.8 and 6.7X 20.8 (pict 11). In infrarenal part of inferior vena cava was performed placement of vena cava filter (Vena Tech LP, B. Braun Medical)



**Pict 11. Cavography. Placement of filter**

Regardless of suitable treatment developed severe obstructive shock

### DISCUSSION

Diagnosis was based on results of renal biopsy and morphological researches, laboratory and clinical parameters. MRI detected left side subcortical nodes

ischemic damage. In lumbar aspirate by PCR method detected vires (HSV1). Patient was treated with antiviral drugs (ZOVIRAX). For treatment of sepsis was identified source of infection (pneumonia, VAP), LDH level was high, Haptoglobin level was decreased, what referred to microangiopathic hemolysis. In peripheral blood smear revealed red blood cells fragmentation, reduction of



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platelet count .D dimer and FDP level was increased . after renal biopsy,in arterial wall and in glomerulrs was found fibrin/fibrinogen deposits . Reason of renal failure was thrombic microangiopathy ,activation of platelets after endothelium damage and activation of coagulation hemostasis. In several glomerulus detected 35% necrosed tubules and remainig part of tubuls was atrophic . Patient was treated with renal replacement therapy , plasma exchange therapy. Causes of coma was thrombic microangiopathy , also accompanying reasons.For prevention of thrombosis was used anticoagulation ,nevertheless developed DVT,pulmonary embolizm , low vena cava thrombosis . Establishing the diagnosis of TTP / HUS was a 2-step process: verifying the presence of triad of microangiopathic hemolytic anemia and thrombocytopenia, Clinical differentiation of hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS) and TTP is often based on the presence of CNS involvement in TTP and the more severe renal involvement in HUS. Level of ADAMTS13 activity was nondeficient. Patients with TTP have either an inherited or an acquired lack of this protease activity whereas those with HUS do not have an abnormality of the enzyme.This patient despite so wide involvement of CNS , ADAMTS13 activity was not deficient.We presented the case,when the disease started with bloody diarrhea,vomiting .By fecal bacteriological analysis microbes has not been identified. Unconsciousness was manifested after hospitalization with generalized seizures.MRI was rivealed temporal and parietal cortex damage,later left ischemic damage of left subcritical nodes,what probably was the reason of seizures. LDH and haptoglobin level was reffered microangiopathic haemolysis . In the smears of peripheral blood was observed erythrocyte fragmentation.Platelets counts was mildly decreased, FDP increased (D dimer also increased).Therefore genesis of renal failure and coma was thrombotic microangiopathy and other encompanying causes. In this patient, despite such extensive involvement of the CNS, ADAMTS13 activity was not inadequate, the treatment was effective, including plasma exchange,what suggested that the patient had HUS. The manifestation of this syndrome sometimes is atypical . The adequate assessment of clinical signs in premorbid period ,adequate exploration of organ dysfunction , using diagnostic methods after hospitalization and appropriate treatment gives the real chance to convalescence observed erythrocyte fragmentation.Platelets counts was mildly decreased ,FDP increased( D dimer also increased).Therefore genesis of renal failure and coma was thrombotic microangiopathy and other encompanying causes. In this patient, despite such extensive involvement of the CNS, ADAMTS13 activity was not inadequate, the treatment was effective, including plasma exchange,what suggested that the patient had HUS. The manifestation of this syndrome sometimes is atypical . The adequate assessment of clinical signs in premorbid period ,adequate exploration of organ dysfunction , using diagnostic methods

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