Rapid Onset Generalized Edema in an Adult Patient with Parvovirus B19 Infection

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Introduction
Several case reports showed the rare complication of parvovirus B19 infection, as generalized edema in adults. But its pathophysiology is still unknown. We report a case with rapid onset generalized edema with parvovirus B19 infection and discuss its possible causative factors.

Case Presentation
A previously healthy 36-year-old woman presented to our hospital because of a two-days-history of severe arthralgia, symmetrical peripheral edema with erythema, and fever. Two weeks earlier, she also had fatigue, chills, and fever, which subsided spontaneously. Physical examination showed bilateral peripheral non-pitting edema with blanching lace-like erythema. We diagnosed her with viral arthritis with parvovirus B19 and gave her ibuprofen 200mg as needed for arthralgia. A week later, she presented with progressive generalized edema, shortness of breath with exertion, decreased and dark colored urination, and weight gain of 8.3 kg. Vital signs were unremarkable except for mild increase in respiratory rate. Generalized pitting edema and forced expiratory wheezes at her neck were observed. We admitted her for the further investigation. Serologically, parvovirus B19 infection was confirmed. Serum electrolytes, osmolarity, creatinine, and eGFR were all normal. NT-proBNP was 973 pg/ml. ANA titer was 40. CH50 was less than 12.0/mL. Ulynalysis showed no hematuria or proteinuria. Repetitive ECGs, cardiac enzymes, and echocardiographies showed IVC dilation without collapse but no signs of myocarditis or pericarditis. Chest CT with contrast showed bilateral pleural effusion and excluded pulmonary embolism. A short course of diuretics improved her condition.

Discussion
Generalized edema with parvovirus B19 infection might be explained by two-step theory. The first is increased capillary permeability by type III allergy and the second is sodium retention by RAA system activation. We also need to consider other aggravative factors, such as undiagnosed SLE or NSAID use.