

ANCA-associated Vasculitis: Systemic Symptoms

Given that ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) can affect almost any organ of the body, symptoms are variable, and often present simultaneously. The combination of systemic and organ-specific symptoms may represent a red flag for AAV

- Flu-like symptoms, including fever, myalgias, arthralgias, headache, and malaise, are common
- General symptoms may include chronic sinusitis, concurrent pulmonary (dyspnea, cough, hemoptysis, obstructive symptoms) and renal (hematuria, proteinuria) presentations, peripheral nerve symptoms (numbness, tingling, weakness), musculoskeletal symptoms (arthralgia, myalgia, arthritis), and skin manifestations (rash, purpura, nodules)
- Focal vasculitic disease, such as rash (cutaneous vasculitis), bloody-purulent rhinitis, scleritis, and arthritis may be common initial presentations
- Physical examination may reveal crackles or wheezing on lung examination, and saddle-nose deformity, nasoseptal perforation, palpable purpura, nodules of the skin, or digital ischemia/necrosis, peripheral nervous system signs (paresis, hypoesthesia), and cardiovascular rhythm abnormalities or signs of heart failure

In these patients, careful examination of other organ systems may show additional disease manifestations