Jarisch Herxheimer Reaction
Introduction

- Indirect drug induced effect caused by a reaction to bacterial endotoxins or microbial Ag’s liberated by the destruction of microorganisms
- Lucio’s phenomenon
History

- Jarisch Adolf Herxheimer
- Karl Hexheimer
Aetiopathogenesis

- Release of endotoxin of the spirochaetal breakdown products following treatment. These products are reacting with sensitised syphilitic to produce exacerbation of the lesion.

- Due to stimulation of the spirochaetes and inadequate education.

Endotoxin of the bacteria \(\rightarrow\) semi-permeable membrane \(\rightarrow\) regulating \(\rightarrow\) shed \(\rightarrow\) Death of the organism
Clinical Manifestations

- Flu-like symptoms:
  1. Fever
  2. Myalgia
  3. Headache
  4. $\uparrow$ HR
  5. Respiratory Rate
Lab Results

- Increased Neutrophils
- Decreased Lyphocytes
- Decreased Eosinophils
Treatment

- Resolves on its own
- Bedrest
- Aspirin
- No steroids
- Continued antibiotics