

Documents

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Exophiala dermatitidis, 'the real black fungus' fungemia in a patient with COVID-19

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Abstract

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India had brought with it a surge of 'black fungus' co-infection, which is a misnomer for mucormycosis. The present case illustrates the 'real black fungus' infection in a 50-year old male patient with COVID-19 pneumonia, who otherwise had no significant previous medical history. He was admitted on day 8 of COVID-19 illness and was intubated due to persistently low oxygen saturation. Blood cultures were positive for flask-shaped dematiaceous budding yeasts with pseudohyphae formation, which grew as brown-black fuzzy colonies on Sabouraud dextrose agar. The isolate was identified as *Exophiala dermatitidis* based on phenotypic characterization. Despite antifungal therapy with amphotericin B and itraconazole, the patient deteriorated rapidly and succumbed to acute respiratory distress syndrome and multiorgan failure. A review of reported cases of *Exophiala dermatitidis* fungemia over the last 5-years is discussed. © 2022

Author Keywords

Antifungal; Coronavirus; COVID-19; Dematiaceous; Malaysia; Mycosis

Index Keywords

amphotericin B, C reactive protein, D dimer, itraconazole; adult, adult respiratory distress syndrome, antifungal therapy, Article, blood pressure, breathing rate, case report, clinical article, coronavirus disease 2019, electrocardiogram, *Exophiala dermatitidis*, fever, human, intubation, leukocyte count, lung consolidation, Malaysia, male, middle aged, multiple organ failure, oxygen saturation, phaeohyphomycosis, pulse rate, sinus tachycardia, tachypnea, thorax radiography

Chemicals/CAS

amphotericin B, 1397-89-3, 30652-87-0; C reactive protein, 9007-41-4; itraconazole, 84625-61-6

Tradenames

BACTEC

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