



BLACK FUNGUS/ MUCORMYCOSIS AND HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT

Homeopathic

Dr. AK Dwivedi

Professor and HOD, Department of Physiology and Biochemistry SKRP Gujrati Medical College, Indore, India. Scientific Advisory Board (CCRH) Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India.

ABSTRACT

In the time of Covid-19, another complication has been reported in the patients getting discharge from the hospitals after recovery i.e. Black Fungus/ Mucormycosis. Mucormycosis or black fungus (previously called zygomycosis) is a serious but uncommon fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds live all over the environment. It is believed that the mucormycosis, which has an overall mortality rate of 50%, may have occurred because of using steroids, a life-saving treatment for severe and critically ill Covid-19 patients. In this paper we have discussed how homeopathic medicines can treat or help in curing Black Fungus/ Mucormycosis on those patients who are admitted in Hospitals & under Allopathic treatment in Indore & Bhopal

KEYWORDS

Black Fungus/ Mucormycosis, Molds, Covid-19, Homeopathy, Homoeopathic treatment, medicines etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Mucormycetes is the group of fungi that cause mucormycosis, these are present all over the environment, mostly in soil and in association with decaying organic matter, such as leaves, compost piles, and animal dung. They are more common in soil than in air, and in summer and fall than in winter or spring. Most people come in contact with microscopic fungal spores every day, so it's probably impossible to completely avoid coming in contact with mucormycetes. These fungi aren't harmful to most people. However, for people who have weakened immune systems, breathing in mucormycete spores can cause an infection in the lungs or sinuses which can spread to other parts of the body.

It is believed that the mucormycosis, which has an overall mortality rate of 50%, may have occurred because of using steroids, a life-saving treatment for severe and critically ill Covid-19 patients. Steroids decrease inflammation in the lungs for Covid-19 and appear to help stop some of the damage that can happen when the body's immune system goes into overdrive to fight off coronavirus. Steroids also reduce immunity and push up blood sugar levels in both diabetics and non-diabetic Covid-19 patients. This drop in immunity could be triggering the cases of mucormycosis in the covid-19 recovered Patients.



The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it not only the detrimental effect due to the disease itself but also has brought together with it add on infections following a blow to the immune system of an individual recovering with the disease. An emerging threat of fungal infections has been noticed recently in immune-compromised patients and following immune suppressants drugs which were earlier found in rare cases. With the patients already left immune-compromised with the conventional treatment effective measures are being explored in the complementary and alternative interventions either standalone or add on to the standard care.

Types of Mucormycosis:

- Rhinocerebral (Sinus And Brain) Mucormycosis
- Pulmonary (Lung) Mucormycosis
- Gastrointestinal Mucormycosis
- Cutaneous (Skin) Mucormycosis
- Disseminated Mucormycosis

Symptoms of Mucormycosis:

- Fever
- Cough
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Swelling on one side of your face

- Headache
- Sinus congestion
- Black lesions on the bridge of your nose or the inside of your mouth

Diagnosis and testing for Mucormycosis:

1. Tissue biopsy
2. Ct scan
3. Laboratory for evidence of mucormycosis under a microscope or in a fungal culture.
4. Medical history, symptoms, physical examinations
5. KOH staining
6. MALDITOF

Who are at Risk?

- Those with uncontrolled diabetes
- Prolonged ICU stay
- Immunosuppression by steroids
- Comorbidities-post transplant/malignancy

How to Prevent Mucormycosis:

Do's:

- Control hyperglycemia
- Monitor blood glucose level post-covid discharge
- Use steroid judiciously.
- Use clean water for humidifiers during oxygen therapy.
- Use antibiotics/antifungals judiciously.

Don'ts:

- Do not miss warning signs and symptoms.
- Do not consider all cases with a blocked nose is due to fungus.
- Do not hesitate to seek interventions.
- Don't hesitate to initiate treatment.

Observations:

Homeopathy is patient oriented system of medicines in which every individual gets different sets of remedies. Homeopathy is a natural and mild scheme of medicines that utilizes minute doses of well-researched remedies to improve the body's natural curing procedure. Homeopathy is a system of medicine in which the medicines formulations are prepared in such a way that it works on the Immunity of the body and strengthen it. This fundamentally means that the Homeopathic medicine strengthens the body's ability to fight disease. When Homeopathic medicines are given to the patient, that person becomes much stronger and doesn't fall ill frequently.

Homeopathic do not take care of just the disease, but is prescribed on the base of physical, emotional and genetic condition of a person. The homeopathic medicines act on both the mental and physical levels of individuals.

Three such patients, who are admitted in Hospitals of Indore & Bhopal with Mucormycosis, consulted me via video calling for Homeopathic medicines along with allopathic treatment.

After Homeopathic medications of 15 days these patients started

getting the desired results and after few more days they are discharged from the hospital and alive

As per the diagnosis and symptoms of the patients following medicines were prescribed:

Sr. No.	Name of Medicine	Purpose
1	Arsenicum album 200, Thuja occidentalis 1M, Tuberculinum - 1M	Post-COVID-19 regimen for preventing opportunistic infections
2	Arsenicum album, Aurum metallicum, Cundurango, Fluoricum acidum, Sulphur iodatum, Acid Benzoicum, Hippozaeninum, Kali iodatum, Kalium bichromicum, Mercurius solubilis, Nitricum acidum, Phosphorus, Secale cornutum	Facial pain, headache, lethargy, visual loss, proptosis, and/or palatal ulcer, nasal discharge (blackish/bloody), Blurred or double vision with pain.
3	Acalypha indica, Arsenicum album, Crotalus horridus, Kali bichromicum, Sulphur iodatum, Acid Benzoicum, Lachesis mutus, Mercurius solubilis, Nitricum acidum, Phosphorus	Difficult breathing, cough, chest pain, pleural effusion, haemoptysis, worsening of respiratory symptoms
4	Anthracinum, Arsenicum album, Sulphur iodatum, Acid Benzoicum, Lachesis mutus, Mezerium, Phosphorus, Secale cornutum, Sulphur	Necrotic scar surrounded by an erythematous and indurated region of skin.
5	Arsenicum album, Crotalus horridus, Ipecacuanha, Sulphur iodatum, Acid Benzoicum, Lachesis mutus, Mercurius corrosivus, Phosphorus, Sulphur	Nonspecific abdominal pain and distention associated with nausea and vomiting, Fever and hematochezia
6	Pyrogen, Echinacea	Septicaemia
7	Pyrogen, Echinacea	Restorative purpose (may vary from case to case)

The homeopathy treatment was given to the patients who consulted me on video calling was as per the guidelines received from AYUSH Ministry.

CONCLUSION:

During our treatment of Mucormycosis we found that if proper care and medication is taken and the diagnosis is done at the early stages, Mucormycosis can be cured/treated with the help of homeopathic medicines.

REFERENCES:

- Hahnemann S. Organon of Medicine. Rep. 5th ed. New Delhi: B Jain Publishers; 1982.
- Hahnemann S. Organon of Medicine. Rep. 6th ed. New Delhi: B Jain Publishers; 1982.
- Pocket Manual of Homeopathic material medica & repertory - by Dr. William Boericke.
- Rich RR. Clinical Immunology: Principles and Practice. 4th ed. China: Elsevier; 2013. p. 3-16.
- John Henry Clarke, Materia Medica, 1902.
- Richardson M. The ecology of the Zygomycetes and its impact on environmental exposure external icon. Clin Microbiol Infect. 2009 Oct;15 Suppl 5:2-9.
- Roden MM, Zaoutis TE, Buchanan WL, Knudsen TA, Sarkisova TA, Schaufele RL, et al. Epidemiology and outcome of zygomycosis: a review of 929 reported cases external icon. Clin Infect Dis. 2005 Sep 1;41(5):634-53.
- Petrikos G, Skiada A, Lortholary O, Roilides E, Walsh TJ, Kontoyiannis DP. Epidemiology and clinical manifestations of mucormycosis external icon. Clin Infect Dis. 2012 Feb;54 Suppl 1:S23-34.
- Lewis RE, Kontoyiannis DP. Epidemiology and treatment of mucormycosis external icon. Future Microbiol. 2013 Sep;8(9):1163-75.
- Spellberg B, Edwards Jr. J, Ibrahim A. Novel perspectives on mucormycosis: pathophysiology, presentation, and management external icon. Clin Microbiol Rev. 2005 Jul;18(3):556-69.
- Ribes JA, Vanover-Sams CL, Baker DJ. Zygomycetes in human disease external icon. Clin Microbiol Rev 2000; 13:236-301.
- Song Y, Qiao J, Giovanni G, Liu G, Yang H, Wu J, Chen J. Mucormycosis in renal transplant recipients: review of 174 reported cases external icon. BMC Infect Dis. 2017 Apr;17(1):283.
- Abdalla A, Adelmann D, Fahal A, Verbrugh H, Van Belkum A, De Hoog S. Environmental occurrence of *Madurella mycetomatis*, the major agent of human eumycetoma in Sudan external icon. J Clin Microbiol. 2002 Mar;40(3):1031-1036.
- Vallabhaneni S, Mody RK. Gastrointestinal mucormycosis in neonates: a review external icon. Current Fungal Infect Rep. 2015.
- Francis JR, Villanueva P, Bryant P, Blyth CC. Mucormycosis in children: review and recommendations for management external icon. J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc. 2018 May 15;7(2):159-164.
- Information for Homeopathy Practitioners for Symptomatic Management of Suspected and Diagnosed cases of Mucormycosis, Government of India Ministry of Ayush Drug Policy Section.