**Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases***

**Manuscript NO: 45657**

**Manuscript type: Case Report**

**treatment of invasive fungal disease: A case report**

Xiao XF *et al*. The treatment of invasive fungal disease

**Xue-Fei Xiao, Jiong-Xing Wu,** **Yang-Cheng Xu**

**Xue-Fei Xiao, Jiong-Xing Wu****,** Department of Emergency and Intensive Medicine, The Third Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha 410013, Hunan Province, China

**Yang-Cheng Xu,** Department of Burn Plastic Surgery, The Third Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha 410013, Hunan Province, China

**ORCID number:** Xue-Fei Xiao (0000-0001-7994-073X); Jiong-Xing Wu (0000-0002-5371-6198); Yang-Cheng Xu (0000-0003-3550-4156).

**Author contributions:** All authors contributed equally to this work; Xiao XF designed the research; Wu JX analyzed the data; Xu YC collected the data; Xiao XF, Wu JX and Xu YC wrote the paper.

**Informed consent statement:** Informed consent to publish was obtained from the patient.

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** All authors declare no conflict of interest for this article.

**CARE Checklist (2016) statement:** The authors have read the CARE Checklist (2016), and the manuscript was prepared and revised according to the CARE Checklist (2016).

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

**Manuscript source:** Unsolicited manuscript

**Corresponding author:** X**ue-Fei Xiao, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Doctor,** Department of Emergency and intensive Medicine, The Third Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, 138 Tongzipo Road, Changsha 410013, Hunan Province, China. [xiaoxuefei@csu.edu.cn](mailto:xiaoxuefei@csu.edu.cn)

**Telephone:** +86-731-88921910

**Fax:** +86-731-88921910

**Received:** January 22, 2019

**Peer-review started:** January 23, 2019

**First decision:** March 18, 2019

**Revised:** May 17, 2019

**Accepted:** June 26, 2019

**Article in press:**

**Published online:**

**Abstract**

***BACKGROUND***

In recent years, the incidence of fungal infection has been increasing, often invading one or more systems of the body. However, it is rare for lymph nodes to be invaded without the involvement of other organs.

***CASE SUMMARY***

A 21-year-old man was admitted to hospital for repeated cough for 2 mo and abdominal pain for 1 mo. Physical examination revealed multiple lymph nodes enlargement, especially those in the left neck and groin. CT scan showed multiple lymph nodes enlargement in the chest, especially left lung, abdominal cavity, and retroperitoneum. The first lymph node biopsy revealed granulomatous lesions of lymph nodes, so intravenous infusion of Cefoperazone tazobactam combined with anti-tuberculosis drugs were given. Because fever and respiratory failure occurred 4 d after admission, mechanical ventilation was given, and Caspofungin and Voriconazole were used successively. However, the disease still could not be controlled. On the 11th day of admission, the body temperature reached 40° C. After mycosis of lymph nodes was confirmed by the second lymph node biopsy, Amphotericin B was given, and the patient recovered and was discharged from the hospital.

***CONCLUSION***

No fixed target organ was identified in this case, and only lymph node involvement was found. Caspofungin, a new antifungal drug, and the conventional first choice drug, Voriconazole, were ineffective, while Amphotericin B was effective.

**Key words:** Invasive fungal disease; Case report; Lymphadenectasis; Lymph node biopsy; Mycosis of lymph nodes; [Amphotericin](D:/%E4%BC%8D%E7%82%AF%E6%98%9F/%E8%BD%AF%E4%BB%B6/%E6%9C%89%E9%81%93%E8%AF%8D%E5%85%B8/Dict/8.2.1.0/resultui/html/index.html#/javascript:;) B

**© The Author(s) 2019.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tip****:** In this case, the results from cervical and supraclavicular lymph node biopsies were different. It is very difficult to diagnose lymph node mycosis quickly in the early stage. When conventional anti-infective treatment is ineffective, multi-stage and multi-site lymph node biopsy is particularly important. The new antifungal drug Caspofungin and the empirical antifungal agent Voriconazole were ineffective, and successful treatment was achieved with Amphotericin B.

Xiao XF, Wu JX, Xu YC. treatment of invasive fungal disease: A case report. *World J Clin Cases* 2019; In press

**INTRODUCTION**

Invasive fungal disease (IFD) is a common type of infection in daily clinical practice around the world. It is defined as fungus that invades body tissues, fluids, and blood, and its growth in these places causes inflammation reaction, leading to tissue damage and organ dysfunction. The incidence in patients with immunosuppression due to organ transplants, malignant tumors, *etc* is high (up to 20%-40%)[1]. In recent years, with increasing numbers of immunosuppression in patients with diseases (*e.g*., malignant tumors and acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and those who use immunosuppressive drugs, IFD incidence has increased dramatically, and the proportion is higher in patients with chronic diseases[2-6]. Current estimates suggest that there are approximately 300 million life-threating fungal infections annually, resulting in 1.6 million deaths[7]. Health impacts worldwide include high morbidity, an overall mortality of 30%–80%, and a multibillion dollar annual economic burden[8].

Lung is the most common target organ of fungal infection. Some specific fungi also have corresponding sensory organs. For example, *Aspergillus* often diffuses in the brain, candida infection often appears in mucositis, and cryptococcal infection often involves the central nervous system[9]. However, it is not common that the main manifestation is lymph node invasion. Unlike previously reported cases, we report a case of invasive mycosis with lymph node fungal infection as the predominant manifestation in a non-immunodeficient patient.

**CASE PRESENTATION**

***Chief complaints***

A 21-year-old man presented to the emergency room department with the chief complaints of repeated cough and abdominal pain associated with multiple lymph nodes enlargement.

***History of present illness***

The patient began to cough and expectorate 2 mo ago, but he refused treatment at that time. These symptoms continued to appear repeatedly. One month ago, he felt pain in his abdominal region with persistence of colic and paroxysmal exacerbation. There were many lymph nodes on the left side of his neck and groin, but there was no fever over the course of disease. His appetite was poor, and his weight decreased approximately 20 kg in 2 mo.

***History of past illness***

There were no significant comorbidities at admission.

***Personal and family history***

The patient was unmarried and childless, lived in a good environment. He denied smoking or drinking and had no personal or family history of other diseases.

***Physical examination upon admission***

Clinical examination revealed the presence of multiple swollen lymph nodes, especially on the left side of his neck and groin. The lymph nodes looked like peanuts with moderate hardness, and their borders were clear. There were no adhesions in the surrounding tissues, and an absence of tenderness. Lung auscultation revealed thick breathing sounds and dry and wet rales.

***Laboratory examinations***

Laboratory results including liver function, renal function, electrolytes, enzymology, and immunological tests, such as lymphocyte subsets, immunoglobulin, and immunoelectrophoresis, were normal. Blood culture, parasite detected, sputum acid fast staining, virology examination, rheumatoid factor tests, tuberculosis-antibody immunoglobulin G, tuberculosis-antibody immunoglobulin M tests, and human immunodeficiency virus (1+2) antibodies were negative. White cell count, neutrophil ratio, C-reactive protein, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate were elevated, and sputum culture showed *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.

***Imaging*** ***examinations***

The computed tomography showed there were many enlarged lymph nodes in the chest and abdominal cavity, with some distributed in the retroperitoneal space. We also found pulmonary atelectasis and infection in the left lung (Figure 1, videos 1-3).

***Other auxiliary examinations***

In the first biopsy of the cervical lymph node, we found a few lymphocytes and multinucleated giant cells, with no tumor cells, and there tended to be lymph node granulomatous lesions (Figure 2).

In the second biopsy of the supraclavicular lymph node, we found lymph nodes with widespread degeneration and necrosis, and there were many spores and small quantities of hyphae in these tissues. There were many giant cell granulomas in the peripheral lymphoid tissues (Figure 3).

Bronchoscopy showed bilateral bronchial mucous that was uneven with hyperemia and edema. In addition, there were some small white ulcers. Blood samples as well as white glutinous secretions with filaments were seen in the airway.

**FINAL DIAGNOSIS**

Based on the imaging findings and the results of the secondary lymph node biopsy, the patient was finally diagnosed with mycosis of lymph nodes.

**TREATMENT**

After admission, he received regular antibiotic treatment and anti-tuberculosis treatment (Cefoperazone tazobactam 2 × 2 g/d，intravenous drip; Isoniazide 0.3 g; Rifampin 0.45 g; Pyrazinamide 3 × 0.5 g; Erhambutol 0.75 g/d，PO), but the treatment effect was not ideal. His temperature was raised gradually in the fifth day, and he started to present with respiratory failure (the oxygenation index less than 150 mmHg) and needed mechanical ventilation therapy. The general anti-infection and anti-tuberculosis treatment were invalid, so we stopped giving anti-tuberculosis drugs and switched to antifungal therapy using Caspofungin (50 mg/d, intravenous drip) for 7 d. The patient’s temperature, however, was still not under control. Therefore, we added Voriconazole (2 × 0.2 g/d, intravenous drip) to his treatment. Four days later, this change appeared to be invalid, and the patient’s temperature continued to rise. Then we conducted another lymph node biopsy (Figure 2), and at the same time, we began Amphotericin B (30 mg/d, intravenous drip) as the antifungal treatment and stopped using Caspofungin. As Amphotericin B was gradually added, Voriconazole was discontinued after 4 d of Amphotericin B. Figure 4 shows the timeline of drug intervention.

**OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP**

On the third day of Amphotericin B treatment, the patient’s temperature gradually returned to normal, and respiratory failure relieved. On the 15th day after admission, the patient was evacuated from the ventilator, and his condition tended to improve. He was then transferred out of the intensive care unit. After continued antifungal treatment for 1 mo in the respiratory department, he went back to the local hospital for further antifungal treatment for 2 mo and recovered. Figure 5 represents the timeline from the patient’s presentation to the final outcome.

**DISCUSSION**

Clinical manifestations in fungal infection are various and lack of specificity, and they often appear in conjunction with other diseases and are easily concealed by the primary diseases. In general, the lung is the most common target organ in fungal infection. Some specific fungi also have corresponding target organs: Aspergillomycosis often spreads in the brain; mucosal inflammation is the most common manifestations in candidiasis; and cryptococcosis always involves central nervous system[9]. Onychomycosis is considered to be one of the hallmarks of human immunodeficiency virus[10]. However, swollen lymph nodes as the prominent manifestation are not common in fungal infections.

Many new antifungal drugs and dosage forms have been developed in recent years, but the incidence and mortality of IFD remains high[2,11-14].It has been reported that the mortality rates exceed 30% in patients diagnosed with IFD[15]. In recent years, diagnostic testing has improved significantly, and the determination of some biomarkers, such as procalcitonin and presepsin, play an important role in the identification of fungal or bacterial infections[16-19]. However, accurate diagnosis of IFD remains challenging. Fungal infections lack specific characteristic clinical manifestations and laboratory indicators, making early diagnosis difficult and the rate of missed diagnosis and misdiagnosis high[11]. In this case, the patient was young and had no history of tumor or other immunodeficiency. The first lymph node biopsy indicated lymph node granulomatous lesions, where there is no specificity. Therefore, the implementation of empirical anti-bacterial and diagnostic anti-tuberculosis treatment was made. Obviously, there was no effect and the patient's condition gradually worsened, with onset of fever, shortness of breath, and the need for mechanical ventilation treatment. When conventional anti-infective treatment is ineffective or the disease advances progressively, the possibility of fungal infection should be taken into consideration. Antifungal treatment should be given appropriately, and lymph node biopsy should be performed again to find the pathogen.

Clarity and uniformity in defining these infections are important. At present, invasive fungal infection is mainly diagnosed by grading mode[1]. The diagnostic basis is composed of four parts: Host (risk) factors, clinical evidence, mycological evidence, and histopathological evidence[1]. The diagnostic level can be divided into three grades: Definite diagnosis, clinical diagnosis, and suspected diagnosis[1]. Diagnostic criteria are shown in Tables 1-3[1]. Infections caused by *Pneumocystis jirovec* are not included. The criteria for definite diagnosis and clinical diagnosis (Tables 1 and 2)[1] include indirect tests, whereas the level of suspected diagnosis (Table 3)[1] include fungal etiology, although mycological evidence is lacking. These definitions have been adopted by most practice guidelines for IFD. The most commonly identified fungal species associated with IFD are *Candida* species, *Aspergillus*, *Cryptococcus*, and *Pneumocystis*[20]. This case accorded with the grade of suspected diagnosis according to this standard. As there was no etiological basis, Caspofungin with relatively few side effects was given. In this case, Caspofungin was given first and then combined with Voriconazole. Voriconazole is the preferred antifungal drug for empirical antifungal therapy[21]. Unfortunately, the patient's condition was not effectively controlled, and fever occurred (the body temperature rose to 40° C). At this point, lymph nodes biopsy was again carried out, revealing lymph node mycosis. The diagnosis of fungal infection was clear, but empirical antifungal therapy was ineffective. At this point, Amphotericin B was resolutely replaced for treatment, and the patient eventually recovered. However, due to technical limitations, we failed to clear the specific type of the fungal infection. Detection and characterization of drug resistance *in vitro* could assist clinicians to select the best antifungal regimen[8]. Evidence supports therapeutic drug monitoring to optimize clinical efficacy[22,23], and our future research efforts will focus on optimization this strategy.

IFDs are characterized by insidious onset and lack of specificity of symptoms. Early neglect can cause delay of diagnosis and treatment, resulting in critical illness and life threatening complications. Therefore, effective antifungal therapy should be carried out once the definite diagnosis/clinical diagnosis is confirmed, and empirical antifungal therapy should also be carried out in the early stage for patients of suspected diagnosis with unclear pathogens. When empiric antifungal therapy is ineffective, it is important to change the antifungal drugs decisively. The patient eventually recovered and was discharged from the hospital, benefiting from early and timely empirical antifungal treatment, although ineffective, but winning the time and opportunity for the latter irrigation of changing antifungal drugs.

In summary, invasive mycosis is a common medical problem in the world. The positive rate of lymph node biopsy is not high. Once invasive fungal infection occurs, it is often accompanied by severe condition, long course, high medical cost, and poor prognosis. In addition, IFD has been shown to be a substantial financial burden to the health care system[24,25]. Therefore, multi-stage and multi-site lymph node biopsies are the key to the diagnosis of the disease. Timely and effective antifungal treatment is essential for curing the disease.

**CONCLUSION**

The possibility of fungal infection should be considered when both empirical anti-infection and diagnostic anti-tuberculosis treatments are ineffective. The new antifungal drug was not the best treatment, and the empirical antifungal drugs do not necessarily work for every patient. Precise individualized treatment is needed. When routine antifungal therapy is invalid, it is appropriate to change the drug. When replacing antifungal drugs, it is necessary to consider the overlap and continuity of drugs.

**REFERENCES**

1 **De Pauw B**, Walsh TJ, Donnelly JP, Stevens DA, Edwards JE, Calandra T, Pappas PG, Maertens J, Lortholary O, Kauffman CA, Denning DW, Patterson TF, Maschmeyer G, Bille J, Dismukes WE, Herbrecht R, Hope WW, Kibbler CC, Kullberg BJ, Marr KA, Muñoz P, Odds FC, Perfect JR, Restrepo A, Ruhnke M, Segal BH, Sobel JD, Sorrell TC, Viscoli C, Wingard JR, Zaoutis T, Bennett JE; European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer/Invasive Fungal Infections Cooperative Group; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Mycoses Study Group (EORTC/MSG) Consensus Group. Revised definitions of invasive fungal disease from the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer/Invasive Fungal Infections Cooperative Group and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Mycoses Study Group (EORTC/MSG) Consensus Group. *Clin Infect Dis* 2008; **46**: 1813-1821 [PMID: 18462102 DOI: 10.1086/588660]

2 **Pfaller MA**, Diekema DJ. Epidemiology of invasive mycoses in North America. *Crit Rev Microbiol* 2010; **36**: 1-53 [PMID: 20088682 DOI: 10.3109/10408410903241444]

3 **Lortholary O**, Gangneux JP, Sitbon K, Lebeau B, de Monbrison F, Le Strat Y, Coignard B, Dromer F, Bretagne S; French Mycosis Study Group. Epidemiological trends in invasive aspergillosis in France: the SAIF network (2005-2007). *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2011; **17**: 1882-1889 [PMID: 21668573 DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-0691.2011.03548.x]

4 **Schelenz S**. Management of candidiasis in the intensive care unit. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2008; **61 Suppl 1**: i31-i34 [PMID: 18063602 DOI: 10.1093/jac/dkm430]

5 **Guinea J**, Torres-Narbona M, Gijón P, Muñoz P, Pozo F, Peláez T, de Miguel J, Bouza E. Pulmonary aspergillosis in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: incidence, risk factors, and outcome. *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2010; **16**: 870-877 [PMID: 19906275 DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-0691.2009.03015.x]

6 **Hayes GE**, Denning DW. Frequency, diagnosis and management of fungal respiratory infections. *Curr Opin Pulm Med* 2013; **19**: 259-265 [PMID: 23411576 DOI: 10.1097/MCP.0b013e32835f1ad1]

7 Stop neglecting fungi. *Nat Microbiol* 2017; **2**: 17120 [PMID: 28741610 DOI: 10.1038/nmicrobiol.2017.120]

8 **Beardsley J**, Halliday CL, Chen SC, Sorrell TC. Responding to the emergence of antifungal drug resistance: perspectives from the bench and the bedside. *Future Microbiol* 2018; **13**: 1175-1191 [PMID: 30113223 DOI: 10.2217/fmb-2018-0059]

9 **Tang S**; Chinese Medical Association The Editorial Board, Chinese Journal of Pediatrics; Subspecialty Group of Hematology The Society of Pediatrics The Society of Pediatrics; Chinese Medical Association The Editorial Board Chinese Journal of Pediatrics; Subspecialty Group of Hematology, The Society of Pediatrics, The Society of Pediatrics. [Treatment recommendations for invasive fungal disease in pediatric patients with cancer or blood disease]. *Zhonghua Er Ke Za Zhi* 2014; **52**: 426-429 [PMID: 25190161 DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.issn.0578-1310.2014.06.006]

10 **Ameen M**, Lear JT, Madan V, Mohd Mustapa MF, Richardson M. British Association of Dermatologists' guidelines for the management of onychomycosis 2014. *Br J Dermatol* 2014; **171**: 937-958 [PMID: 25409999 DOI: 10.1111/bjd.13358]

11 **Schelenz S**, Barnes RA, Barton RC, Cleverley JR, Lucas SB, Kibbler CC, Denning DW; British Society for Medical Mycology. British Society for Medical Mycology best practice recommendations for the diagnosis of serious fungal diseases. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2015; **15**: 461-474 [PMID: 25771341 DOI: 10.1016/S1473-3099(15)70006-X]

12 **Nivoix Y**, Velten M, Letscher-Bru V, Moghaddam A, Natarajan-Amé S, Fohrer C, Lioure B, Bilger K, Lutun P, Marcellin L, Launoy A, Freys G, Bergerat JP, Herbrecht R. Factors associated with overall and attributable mortality in invasive aspergillosis. *Clin Infect Dis* 2008; **47**: 1176-1184 [PMID: 18808352 DOI: 10.1086/592255]

13 **Dignani MC**. Epidemiology of invasive fungal diseases on the basis of autopsy reports. *F1000Prime Rep* 2014; **6**: 81 [PMID: 25343038 DOI: 10.12703/P6-81]

14 **Miceli MH**, Lee SA. Emerging moulds: epidemiological trends and antifungal resistance. *Mycoses* 2011; **54**: e666-e678 [PMID: 21672045 DOI: 10.1111/j.1439-0507.2011.02032.x]

15 **Bitar D**, Lortholary O, Le Strat Y, Nicolau J, Coignard B, Tattevin P, Che D, Dromer F. Population-based analysis of invasive fungal infections, France, 2001-2010. *Emerg Infect Dis* 2014; **20**: 1149-1155 [PMID: 24960557 DOI: 10.3201/eid2007.140087]

16 **Pieralli F**, Corbo L, Torrigiani A, Mannini D, Antonielli E, Mancini A, Corradi F, Arena F, Moggi Pignone A, Morettini A, Nozzoli C, Rossolini GM. Usefulness of procalcitonin in differentiating Candida and bacterial blood stream infections in critically ill septic patients outside the intensive care unit. *Intern Emerg Med* 2017; **12**: 629-635 [PMID: 28161884 DOI: 10.1007/s11739-017-1627-7]

17 **Thomas-Rüddel DO**, Poidinger B, Kott M, Weiss M, Reinhart K, Bloos F; MEDUSA study group. Influence of pathogen and focus of infection on procalcitonin values in sepsis patients with bacteremia or candidemia. *Crit Care* 2018; **22**: 128 [PMID: 29753321 DOI: 10.1186/s13054-018-2050-9]

18 **Bamba Y**, Moro H, Aoki N, Koizumi T, Ohshima Y, Watanabe S, Sakagami T, Koya T, Takada T, Kikuchi T. Increased presepsin levels are associated with the severity of fungal bloodstream infections. *PLoS One* 2018; **13**: e0206089 [PMID: 30379880 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0206089]

19 **Lippi G**. Sepsis biomarkers: past, present and future. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2019; Epub ahead of print [PMID: 30710482 DOI: 10.1515/cclm-2018-1347]

20 **Schmiedel Y**, Zimmerli S. Common invasive fungal diseases: an overview of invasive candidiasis, aspergillosis, cryptococcosis, and Pneumocystis pneumonia. *Swiss Med Wkly* 2016; **146**: w14281 [PMID: 26901377 DOI: 10.4414/smw.2016.14281]

21 **Infectious Diseases Society of Taiwan.**; Hematology Society of Taiwan; Taiwan Society of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; Medical Foundation in Memory of Dr Deh-Lin Cheng; Foundation of Professor Wei-Chuan Hsieh for Infectious Diseases Research and Education; CY Lee’s Research Foundation for Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Vaccines. Guidelines for the use of antifungal agents in patients with invasive fungal infections in Taiwan--revised 2009. *J Microbiol Immunol Infect* 2010; **43**: 258-263 [PMID: 21375061 DOI: 10.1016/S1684-1182(10)60041-2]

22 **Andes D**, Pascual A, Marchetti O. Antifungal therapeutic drug monitoring: established and emerging indications. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2009; **53**: 24-34 [PMID: 18955533 DOI: 10.1128/AAC.00705-08]

23 **Stott KE**, Hope WW. Therapeutic drug monitoring for invasive mould infections and disease: pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic considerations. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2017; **72**: i12-i18 [PMID: 28355463 DOI: 10.1093/jac/dkx029]

24 **Zaoutis TE**, Argon J, Chu J, Berlin JA, Walsh TJ, Feudtner C. The epidemiology and attributable outcomes of candidemia in adults and children hospitalized in the United States: a propensity analysis. *Clin Infect Dis* 2005; **41**: 1232-1239 [PMID: 16206095 DOI: 10.1086/496922]

25 **Zaoutis TE**, Heydon K, Chu JH, Walsh TJ, Steinbach WJ. Epidemiology, outcomes, and costs of invasive aspergillosis in immunocompromised children in the United States, 2000. *Pediatrics* 2006; **117**: e711-e716 [PMID: 16533892 DOI: 10.1542/peds.2005-1161]

**P-Reviewer:** Cuevas-Covarrubias SA, Kaliyadan F **S-Editor:** Gong ZM

**L-Editor:** Filipodia **E-Editor:**

**Specialty type:** Gastroenterology and hepatology

**Country of origin:** China

**Peer-review report classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): 0

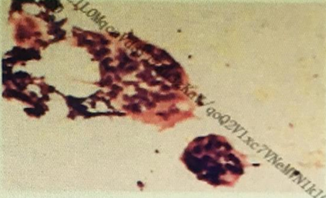
Grade C (Good): C

Grade D (Fair): D

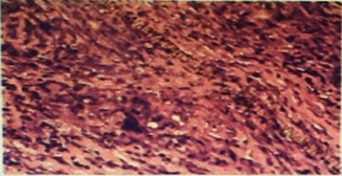
Grade E (Poor): 0



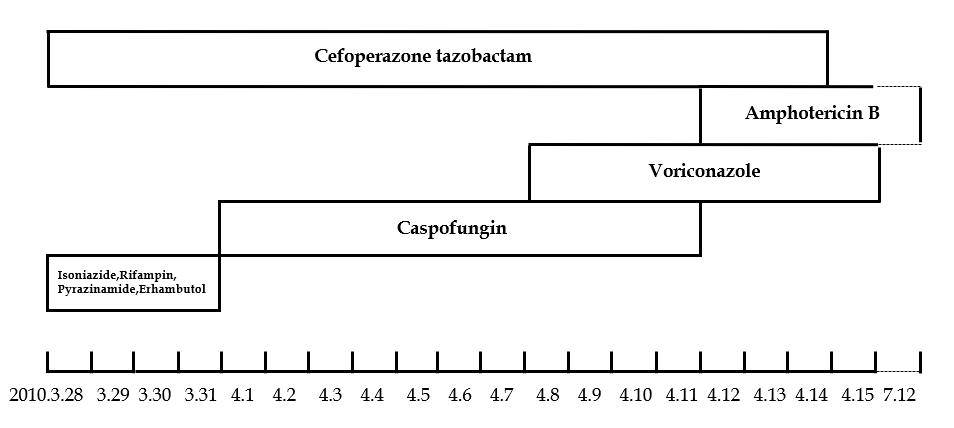
**Figure 1 Radiographic findings.** The computed tomography showed there were many enlarged lymph nodes in the chest, pulmonary atelectasis, and infection in the left lung. A: Transverse section; B: Coronal plane; C: Sagittal plane.



**Figure** **2 Biopsy of** **neck lymph node.** There are a small number of lymphoid cells and multinucleated giant cells and no malignant cells. pathological diagnosis: (the left neck lymph node fine-needle aspiration smear). Considering the lymph node granulomatous lesions.



**Figure** **3 Secondary biopsy of supraclavicular lymph node.** Lymph nodes with widespread degeneration and necrosis, and there are many spores and small quantities of hyphae in these tissues. There are many giant cell granuloma in the peripheral lymphoid tissues. pathological diagnosis: (the left supraclavicular lymph node fine-needle aspiration smear). The diagnosis conformed lymph nodes fungal disease.



**Figure 4 Timeline summarizing** **drug intervention.**

**Patient’s information**

21-year-old male

Medical history: noncontributory

Chief complaints: repeated cough and abdominal pain associated with multiple lymph nodes enlargement

**Clinical findings**

Multiple swollen lymph nodes on the left side of the neck and groin

Lung auscultation: thick breathing sounds, dry and wet rales

Poor appetite and weight decreased by about 20 kg

**Diagnostic test**

Diagnostic quadruple antituberculosis therapy

**Pathological interpretation**

The first biopsy of cervical lymph node：Tend to be lymph node

granulomatous lesions

The secondary biopsy of supraclavicular lymph node: There are many

spores and small quantities of hyphae

**Diagnosis**

Pathological diagnosis: conformed lymph nodes fungal disease

**Pharmacological intervention**

Antibiotic: Cefoperazone tazobactam

Anti-tuberculosis: Isoniazide; Rifampin; Pyrazinamide; Erhambutol

Antifungal: Caspofungin; Voriconazole; Amphotericin B

**One-year follow up**

Antifungal treatment for 1 mo in the respiratory department

Antifungal treatment for 2 mo in the local hospital

Recovery

Figure 5 Timeline summarizing patient’s information, clinical findings, diagnostic tests, diagnosis, pharmacological intervention, and follow up.

**Table 1 Criteria for proven invasive fungal disease except for endemic mycoses**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis and specimen** | **Molds1** | **Yeasts1** |
| Microscopic analysis: sterile  material | Histopathologic, cytopathologic, or direct microscopic examination2of a specimen obtained by needle aspiration or biopsy in which hyphae or melanized yeast-like forms are seen accompanied by evidence of associated tissue damage | Histopathologic, cytopathologic, or direct microscopic examination2of a specimen obtained by needle aspiration or biopsy from a normally sterile site (other than mucous membranes) showing yeast cells—for example, *Cryptococcus* species indicated by encapsulated budding yeasts or *Candida* species showing pseudohyphae or true hyphae3 |
| Culture  Sterile material | Recovery of a mold or “black yeast” by culture of a specimen obtained by a sterile procedure from a normally sterile and clinically or radiologically abnormal site consistent with an infectious disease process, excluding bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, a cranial sinus cavity specimen, and urine | Recovery of a yeast by culture of a sample obtained by a sterile procedure [including a freshly placed (< 24 hr ago) drain] from a normally sterile site showing a clinical or radiological abnormality consistent with an infectious disease process |
| Blood | Blood culture that yields a mold4(*e.g.*, *Fusarium* species) in the context of a compatible infectious disease process | Blood culture that yields yeast (*e.g.*, *Cryptococcus* or *Candida* species) or yeast- like fungi (*e.g.*, *Trichosporon* species) |
| Serological analysis: CSF | Not applicable | Cryptococcal antigen in CSF indicates disseminated cryptococcosis |

1If culture is available, append the identification at the genus or species level from the culture results. 2Tissue and cells submitted for histopathologic or cytopathologic studies should be stained by Grocott-Gomorri methenamine silver stain or by periodic acid Schiff stain, to facilitate inspection of fungal structures. Whenever possible, wet mounts of specimens from foci related to invasive fungal disease should be stained with a fluorescent dye (*e.g.*, calcofluor or blankophor). 3*Candida, Trichosporon*, and yeast-like *Geotrichum* species and *Blastoschizomyces capitatus* may also form pseudohyphae or true hyphae. 4Recovery of *Aspergillus* species from blood cultures invariably represents contamination. CSF: Cerebrospinal fluid.

**Table 2 Criteria for probable invasive fungal disease except for endemic mycoses**

|  |
| --- |
| Host factors1  Recent history of neutropenia [< 0.5 × 109 neutrophils/L (< 500 neutrophils/mm3] for > 10 d] temporally related to the onset of fungal disease  Receipt of an allogeneic stem cell transplant  Prolonged use of corticosteroids (excluding among patients with allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis) at a mean minimum dose of 0.3 mg/kg/d of prednisone equivalent for > 3 wk  Treatment with other recognized T cell immunosuppressants, such as cyclosporine, TNF-*α* blockers, specific monoclonal antibodies (such as alemtuzumab), or nucleoside analogues during the past 90 d  Inherited severe immunodeficiency (such as chronic granulomatous disease or severe combined immunodeficiency)  Clinical criteria2  Lower respiratory tract fungal disease3  The presence of one of the following three signs on CT:  Dense, well-circumscribed lesions(s) with or without a halo sign  Air-crescent sign  Cavity  Tracheobronchitis  Tracheobronchial ulceration, nodule, pseudomembrane, plaque, or eschar seen on bronchoscopic analysis  Sinonasal infection  Imaging showing sinusitis plus at least one of the following three signs:  Acute localized pain (including pain radiating to the eye)  Nasal ulcer with black eschar  Extension from the paranasal sinus across bony barriers, including into the orbit  CNS infection  One of the following two signs:  Focal lesions on imaging  Meningeal enhancement on MRI or CT  Disseminated candidiasis4  At least one of the following two entities after an episode of candidemia within the previous 2 wk:  Small, target-like abscesses (bull's-eye lesions) in liver or spleen  Progressive retinal exudates on ophthalmologic examination  Mycological criteria  Direct test (cytology, direct microscopy, or culture)  Mold in sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, bronchial brush, or sinus aspirate samples, indicated by one of the following:  Presence of fungal elements indicating a mold  Recovery by culture of a mold (*e.g*., *Aspergillus, Fusarium*, Zygomycetes, or *Scedosporium* species)  Indirect tests (detection of antigen or cell-wall constituents)5  Aspergillosis  Galactomannan antigen detected in plasma, serum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, or CSF  Invasive fungal disease other than cryptococcosis and zygomycoses  β-D-glucan detected in serum |

Probable IFD requires the presence of a host factor, a clinical criterion, and a mycological criterion. Cases that meet the criteria for a host factor and a clinical criterion but for which mycological criteria are absent are considered possible IFD. 1Host factors are not synonymous with risk factors and are characteristics by which individuals predisposed to invasive fungal diseases can be recognized. They are intended primarily to apply to patients given treatment for malignant disease and to recipients of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell and solid-organ transplants. These host factors are also applicable to patients who receive corticosteroids and other T cell suppressants as well as to patients with primary immunodeficiencies. 2Must be consistent with the mycological findings, if any, and must be temporally related to current episode. 3Every reasonable attempt should be made to exclude an alternative etiology. 4The presence of signs and symptoms consistent with sepsis syndrome indicates acute disseminated disease, whereas their absence denotes chronic disseminated disease. 5These tests are primarily applicable to aspergillosis and candidiasis and are not useful in diagnosing infections due to *Cryptococcus* species or Zygomycetes (*e.g*., *Rhizopus, Mucor*, or *Absidia* species). Detection of nucleic acid is not included, because there are as yet no validated or standardized Methods. TNF-**: Tumor necrosis factor-alpha; CT: Computed tomography; MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging; IFD: Invasive fungal disease.

**Table 3 Criteria for the diagnosis of endemic mycoses**

|  |
| --- |
| **Diagnosis and criteria** |
| Proven endemic mycosis  In a host with an illness consistent with an endemic mycosis, one of the following:  Recovery in culture from a specimen obtained from the affected site or from blood  Histopathologic or direct microscopic demonstration of appropriate morphologic forms with a truly distinctive appearance characteristic of dimorphic fungi, such as *Coccidioides* species spherules, *Blastomyces dermatitidis* thick-walled broad-based budding yeasts, *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* multiple budding yeast cells, and, in the case of histoplasmosis, the presence of characteristic intracellular yeast forms in a phagocyte in a peripheral blood smear or in tissue macrophages  For coccidioidomycosis, demonstration of coccidioidal antibody in CSF, or a 2-dilution rise measured in two consecutive blood samples tested concurrently in the setting of an ongoing infectious disease process  For paracoccidioidomycosis, demonstration in two consecutive serum samples of a precipitin band to paracoccidioidin concurrently in the setting of an ongoing infectious disease process  Probable endemic mycosis  Presence of a host factor, including but not limited to those specified in Table 2, plus a clinical picture consistent with endemic mycosis and mycological evidence, such as a positive *Histoplasma* antigen test result from urine, blood, or CSF |

Endemic mycoses include histoplasmosis, blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, sporotrichosis, and infection due to *Penicillium marneffei*. Onset within 3 mo after presentation defines a primary pulmonary infection. There is no category of possible endemic mycosis, as such, because neither host factors nor clinical features are sufficiently specific; such cases are considered to be of value too limited to include in clinical trials, epidemiological studies, or evaluations of diagnostic test. CSF: Cerebrospinal fluid.