

# Respiratory fungal infection

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- Extra, TN



# Objectives :

- **Acquire the basic knowledge about fungal infections of the respiratory system**
- **Know the main fungi that affects the respiratory system.**
- **Identify the clinical settings of such infections.**
- **Know the laboratory diagnosis, and treatment of these infections.**

# Introduction

- inhalation (airborne), and Aspiration (oral route), are mostly the rout of Respiratory infections.
- Respiratory fungal infections are **less common** than viral and bacterial infections. Viruses > bacteria > fungi.
- **Invasive** diseases have significant difficulties in diagnosis and treatment.

| Opportunistic : Diseases in immunocompromised host. Ex, HIV/AIDS<br>Primary infections : caused by primary pathogen.  |  |   | Etiology |   |  |
|---|--|---|----------|---|--|
| Opportunistic   |  | Primary infections  |          |   |  |
| <b>Yeast</b><br>( pathogen → <b>disease</b> )   |  | <b>“Filamentous” Mould fungi</b><br>( pathogen → <b>disease</b> )   |          | <b>Dimorphic fungi</b><br>“both yeast and mould fungi”  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candida → <b>Candidiasis</b> <i>very rare</i></li> <li>• Cryptococcus neoformans and C. gattii → <b>Cryptococcosis</b> <i>Usually seen in meningitis rather than resp</i></li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspergillus species → <b>Aspergillosis</b></li> <li>• Zygomycetes, Rhizopus and Mucor → <b>Zygomycosis</b></li> <li>• Other mould</li> </ul> |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Histoplasma capsulatum</li> <li>• Blastomyces dermatitidis</li> <li>• Paracoccidioides brasiliensis</li> <li>• Coccidioides immitis</li> </ul> |  |
| <small>C : Cryptococcus</small>   |  |   |          |   |  |

# Primary Systemic Mycoses

## Primary Systemic Mycoses

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Definition</b>                              | Infections of the respiratory system.   |
| <b>Transmission</b>                            | Inhalation  |
| <b>Where can we see it ?</b>                   | <b>Dissemination</b> "it can spread to more than organ" seen in immunocompromised hosts. "Severe"   |
| <b>Where can we find it ?</b>                  | Common in North America to a lesser extent in South America. Not common in other parts of the World.  |
| <b>Etiology</b><br>=<br><b>Dimorphic fungi</b> | <p>In nature found in soil of restricted habitats.</p> <p><b>Primary pathogens.</b></p> <p>They are <b>highly infectious</b>. "If you inhaled just few of it you will get infected unlike others"</p> <p>it include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Histoplasmosis</li><li>• Blastomycosis</li><li>• Coccidioidomycosis</li><li>• Paracoccidioidomycosis</li></ul> |

# Aspergillosis

## Definition

**Aspergillosis** is a spectrum of diseases of humans and animals caused by members of the genus *Aspergillus* (mould fungi).

## it include

Mycotoxicosis, Colonization (without invasion and extension) in preformed cavities. Invasive disease of lungs., Systemic and disseminated disease, Allergy.

| Etiology   | Risk factor   | Diagnosis  | Treatment  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Aspergillus species</b>, common species are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A.fumigatu</b><br/>most virulent</li> <li>• <b>A. flavus</b><br/>most common in Riyadh</li> <li>• A. niger</li> <li>• A. terreus and</li> <li>• A. nidulans.</li> </ul> <p>(image slide 8)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bone marrow/ <b>organ transplantation</b></li> </ul> <p>Because we gave them immunosuppressants to decrease their immunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cancer:</b> Leukemia, lymphoma.</li> <li>• AIDS</li> <li>• Drugs: Cytotoxic drugs, steroids.</li> <li>• Diabetes</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul> | <p><b>Specimen:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respiratory specimens: <sup>1</sup>Sputum, <sup>2</sup>BAL, <sup>3</sup>Lung biopsy.</li> <li>• Other samples: Blood</li> </ul> <p><b>Lab. Investigations:</b> (image slide 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Microscopy: Giemsa Stain, <sup>4</sup>GMS Stain. Will show <b>fungal septate hyphae</b></li> <li>• Culture on SDA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Serology:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test for Antibody.</li> <li>• ELISA test for <b>galactomannan Antigen.</b> "specific for Aspergillus"</li> </ul> <p><b>PCR:</b> Detection of Aspergillus DNA in clinical samples.</p> | <p><b>Antifungal:</b><br/><b>Voriconazole</b><br/>"the drug of choice"</p> <p><b>Alternative therapy:</b><br/>Amphotericin B,<br/><b>Itraconazole,</b><br/>Caspofungin<br/>+surgery to remove aspergilloma</p> |

Aspergillus is first **common** fungal pathogen in respiratory infection.

- 1- NOT the best because it's full with normal flora
- 2- BronchoAlveolar Lavage Second best method
- 3- The BEST method because it's sterile + you can check if the disease is invasive or not
- 4- Grocott Methenamine Silver

# Classification of Aspergillosis

Pathogenesis: Airways/Nasal exposure to airborne Aspergillus.

|   | Types  | Causes  | Signs and symptom   | Diagnosis  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Invasive pulmonary Aspergillosis</b></p> <p><small>In immunocompromised patient</small></p> |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● hemoptysis</li> <li>● fever</li> <li>● Leukocytosis</li> </ul>                                | <p><b>Radiology:</b> will show lesions with <b>halo sign</b>.</p> <p>(Image slide 8)</p>   |
| <p><b>Chronic Aspergillosis</b></p> <p><b>“Colonizing Aspergillosis”</b></p>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aspergilloma of lung</li> <li>● Maxillary (sinus) aspergilloma</li> </ul>                           | <p><b>Aspergilloma</b>, which is also known as (Aspergillus fungus ball).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dry Cough</b></li> <li>● hemoptysis</li> <li>● variable fever</li> </ul>                                    | <p><b>Radiology:</b> will show <b>mass</b> in the lung. <b>radiolucent crescent</b>”air surround the mass”</p> <p>(Image slide 8)</p>  |
| <p><b>Allergic</b></p> <p><small>-In healthy patient usually<br/>-common in KSA</small></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allergic bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis (ABPA)</li> <li>● Allergic Aspergillus sinusitis</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Symptoms of Asthma</li> <li>● Bronchial obstruction</li> <li>● Eosinophilia</li> <li>● Wheezing +/-</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Skin test reactivity to Aspergillus</li> <li>● <b>Serum antibodies to Aspergillus</b></li> </ul> <p><small>This test is used to differentiate between asthma and allergic aspergillosis</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Serum <b>IgE</b>&gt; 1000 ng/ml</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Persistence without disease</b></p>   |  |   | <p>colonisation of the airways or nose/ sinuses.</p>  |  |

# Fungal sinusitis

Common in KSA especially allergic synasitis

Aspergillus sinusitis has the same spectrum of aspergillus disease in the lung.

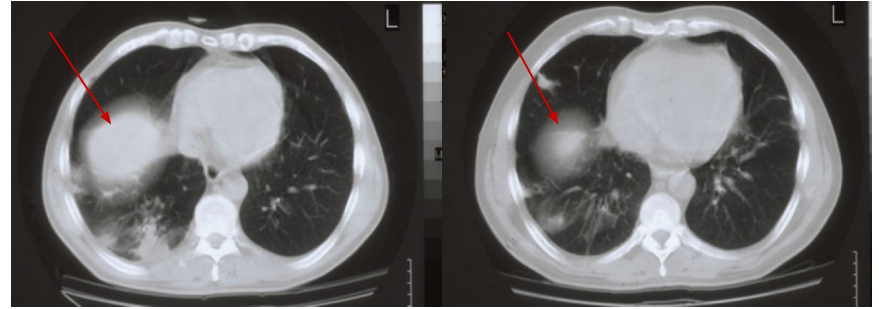
| Symptoms                                      | Etiology   | Complication   | Diagnosis   | Treatment  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Nasal polyps and other symptoms of sinusitis. | <b>Aspergillus flavus</b> and other fungi.<br><br>Aspergillus flavus is the most common cause in KSA | In immunocompromised, Could <b>disseminate to eye lead to craneum</b> (Rhinocerebral) <sup>Brain</sup> . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical and Radiology</li><li>• Histology</li><li>• Culture</li><li>• Precipitating antibodies useful in diagnosis</li><li>• Measurement of IgE level, RAST test</li></ul> | <b>Depends on :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the type and severity of the disease.</li><li>• the immunological status of the patient.</li></ul> |

# Visuals

## Diagnosis of Aspergillosis Chronic and Invasive

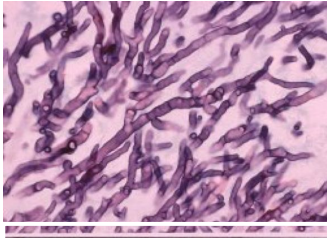


Chronic Aspergillosis, Note the **Air crescent**

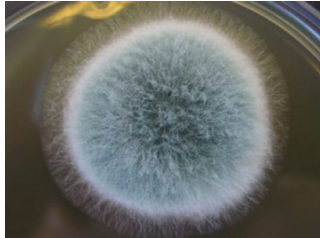


Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis, Note the **Halo sign**

## Lab. Investigations of Aspergillosis



Smear: **Septate** fungal hyphae Aspergillosis



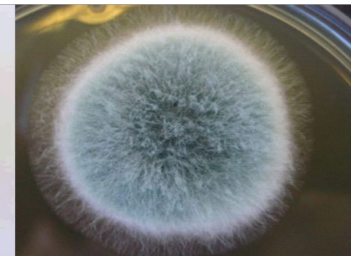
Cultures of Aspergillus

## Common airborne Fungi Types of Aspergillus

(differ by color after culturing)



(black-brownish) **Aspergillus niger**



**Aspergillus fumigatus** (greenish-yellow)



# Zygomycosis

## Pulmonary zygomycosis

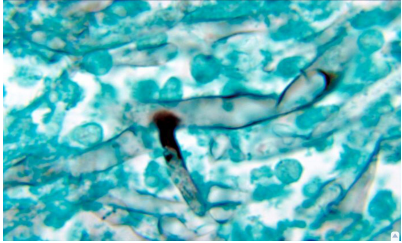
- **Acute** infection
- Marked by : Consolidation , nodules , cavitation , pleural effusion , hemoptysis
- Infection may extend to chest wall , diaphragm , pericardium causing :
  - Pulmonary infarction and hemorrhage
  - Rapid evolving clinical course

**Early recognition and intervention are critical**

If it's in the form of sinusitis it will extend into the brain in 10 days

## Rhinocerebral zygomycosis


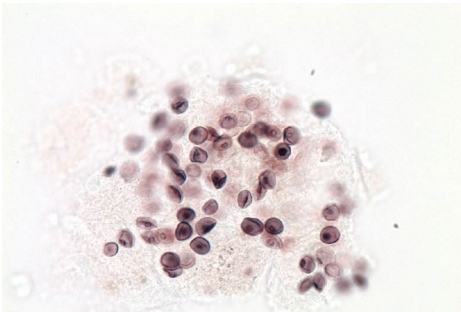
# Pulmonary Zygomycosis

| Etiology  | Risk factors  | Diagnosis   | Treatment   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Zygomycetes :</b><br/><b>Non-septate hyphae</b><br/>e.g. Rhizopus</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transplant patients</li><li>• Malignancy</li><li>• AIDS</li><li>• <b>Diabetic ketoacidosis</b></li></ul> <p>And many others</p> | <p><b>Specimen:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respiratory specimens: Sputum, BAL, <b>Lung biopsy</b> + other samples</li></ul> <p><b>Laboratory Investigations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct Microscopy: Giemsa stain, GMS stain ➤ Will show <b>broad non-septate fungal hyphae</b></li><li>• Culture on SDA (<b>no cycloheximide</b>)</li></ul> <p><b>Serology:</b> <u>Not</u> available</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Amphotericin B</b></li><li>• <b>Surgery</b></li></ul>  |

# Pneumocystosis (PCP)

Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) is **Opportunistic fungal pneumonia**

It is interstitial pneumonia of the alveolar area. Affect **compromised host** ( Especially common in **AIDS** patients ).

| Etiology   | Diagnosis   | Treatment   |
|--|---|---|
| <p data-bbox="137 547 446 587"><b>Pneumocystis jiroveci</b></p> <p data-bbox="98 694 484 877">-Naturally found in rodents (rats), other animals (goats, horses), Humans may contract it during childhood</p>  | <ul data-bbox="566 476 1321 994" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does <b>not grow</b> in laboratory media e.g. SDA</li><li>• Laboratory Diagnosis:<ul data-bbox="566 620 1321 710" style="list-style-type: none"><li>- specimen : <b>Bronchoscopic specimens (BAL)</b><br/><b>BronchoAlveolar Lavage</b>, Sputum, Lung , biopsy tissue.</li></ul></li><li>• <u>Histological</u> sections or <u>smears</u> stained by<ul data-bbox="566 765 1321 994" style="list-style-type: none"><li>- GMS stain.</li><li>- <b>Immunofluorescence (better sensitivity)</b><br/>If <b>positive</b> → will see <b>cysts</b> of hat-shape, cup shape, crescent</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul data-bbox="1443 525 1875 659" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Trimethoprim</b> "the drug of choice" – <b>sulfamethoxazole</b></li><li>• Dapsone</li></ul>  |

# Summary

|                                     | Primary Systemic Mycoses                                 | Aspergillosis   | Zygomycosis<br>Pulmonary zygomycosis   | Pneumocystosis<br>Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) is<br>Opportunistic fungal pneumonia.   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Epidemiology/<br>signs and symptoms | Highly infectious ,<br>common in America<br>but not here | <b>Cough - hemoptysis - fever</b><br>Invasive : leukocytosis<br>Allergic : asthma symptoms<br>Chronic : aspergilloma<br>Fungal sinusitis : nasal polyps   | <b>Acute infection</b> marked by Consolidation,<br>nodules, <b>cavitation</b> , pleural effusion,<br>hemoptysis. Risk factor: <b>Diabetes</b> .                          | It is interstitial pneumonia of the<br>alveolar area.<br>Risk factor: <b>AIDS</b> patients.  |
| Etiology                            | Dimorphic fungi  | <i>A.fumigatus</i> , <i>A.flavus</i>  | Zygomycetes  | <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i>   |
| Diagnosis                           |  | <b>1-Specimen:</b> Sputum, BAL, Lung biopsy.<br><b>2-Lab. Investigations:</b><br>(GMS) → <b>septate fungal hyphae</b><br><b>3-Serology:</b> ELISA test for<br><b>galactomannan Antigen</b> .<br>Allergic and sinusitis : IgE serum<br><b>4-PCR</b> detect the DNA of aspergillus.<br><b>5- Radiology</b><br>Invasive: halo sign<br>Chronic : mass with crescent | <b>1-Specimen:</b> Sputum, BAL, Lung biopsy<br><b>2-Laboratory Investigations:</b><br>(GMS) → <b>broad non-septate fungal hyphae</b><br><b>3-Serology:</b> Not available | <b>1- Specimen :</b> BAL<br><b>2-Laboratory Investigations:</b><br>Histological sections or smears stained<br>by (GMS) stain and <b>Immunofluorescence</b><br><b>(better sensitivity)</b><br>If positive → <b>cysts</b><br>Does <b>not</b> grow in laboratory media. |
| Treatment                           |  | <b>Antifungal:</b> Voriconazole   | Amphotericin B, Surgery  | Trimethoprim   |

# Quiz :



|   |                           |                          |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Which one is considered highly infectious ?                |                           |                          |
| A.Coccidioidomycosis  | B. Aspergillus niger      | C. Rhizopus              |
| 2) All have abnormal level of IgE except                      |                           |                          |
| A.Aspergillus sinusitis                                       | B. allergic aspergillosis | C. Pulmonary Zygomycosis |
| 3) One of the following considered as an acute infection      |                           |                          |
| A.pulmonary zygomycosis                                       | B. Pneumocystosis         | C. Fungal sinusitis      |
| 4) Which one of the following can't be cultured               |                           |                          |
| A.Aspergillus flavus  | B. Pneumocystis jiroveci  | C. Rhizopus              |
| 5) A patient's lab diagnosis show septate hyphae , which is : |                           |                          |
| A.Zygomycetes   | B. Pneumocystis jiroveci  | C. Aspergillus fumigatus |

Q1. A 55-year-old man who recently recovered uneventfully from a heart valve transplant presents to the emergency room with pleuritic chest pain, hemoptysis, fever, and chills. While he is being examined, he has a myocardial infarction and the medical team is unable to revive him. An autopsy revealed septate hyphae in many tissues, what is the likely diagnosis ?

Aspergillosis

Q2. A 57-year-old diabetic patient came to the hospital with a fever , headache and coughing blood , the laboratory diagnoses showed non-septate hyphae , what is the best treatment for in this condition ?

Amphotericin B



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