LETTER TO THE EDITOR



COVID-19 and Rhino-Cerebral Mucormycosis: Correspondence

Rujittika Mungmunpuntipantip¹ · Viroj Wiwanitkit²

Received: 27 November 2021/Accepted: 3 June 2022/Published online: 25 June 2022 © The Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India 2022

Dear Editor, we would like to share ideas on "Association of COVID-19 with Rhino-Cerebral Mucormycosis: An Observational Study [1]." Agarwal et al. reported that "*The findings show that mild COVID-19-infected patients and non-diabetic patients the significant risk of secondary mucormycosis in the post-recovery phase, even in those with mild or moderate symptoms..*"[1]. Risk of mucormycosis is an interesting new issue on COVID-19-related disorders. Some new reports show a similar finding to the present study [2, 3]. Emerging mucormycosis problem exists in many endemic area, and problem already exists during pandemic. Hence, it might not increase risk at post-COVID recovery as Agarwal et al. noted [1], but risk exists at present.

The problem might or might not be a long COVID-19. Immunoaberration might result in increases in risk to fungal infection, but there is no proof that COVID-19 significantly deteriorates specific T cell function [4]. Another possible consideration is the effect of lockdown. When a lockdown policy is implemented, local people usually live at home and closely lock their homes. In endemic area with crowdedness and poor local sanitation community, poor ventilation and lack of sunlight due to closed locking might occur and it might promote the growth of pathogenic fungi. This might be concordant with the fact that mild non-diabetic case which is usually managed for COVID-19 at home can get risk for having superimposed mucormycosis.

Declaration

Conflict of interest Authors ask for waiving for any charge for this correspondence.

References

- Agarwal V, Gupta A, Singh V, Jajodia N, Popli H, Akilan R (2021) Association of COVID-19 with rhino-cerebral mucormycosis: an observational study. J Maxillofac Oral Surg 11:1–5. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12663-021-01665-3
- Bhardwaj R, Sharma A, Parasher A, Gupta H, Sahu S, Pal S (2021) Rhino-orbito-cerebral mucormycosis during the second wave of Covid-19: the Indian scenario. Indian J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 12:1–6. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12070-021-02978-y
- Vaid N, Mishra P, Gokhale N, Vaid S, Vaze V, Kothadiya A, Deka T, Agarwal R (2021) A proposed grading system and experience of COVID-19 associated rhino orbito cerebral mucormycosis from an Indian tertiary care center. Indian J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 15:1–8. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12070-021-02986-y
- 4. Joob B, Wiwanitkit V (2021) Estimated CD4+ count: appraisal on cases with COVID-19. J Res Med Sci 30(26):79

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

- ¹ Bangkok, Thailand
- ² Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India

Rujittika Mungmunpuntipantip rujittika@gmail.com