#### MEDICINE



# Association of Invasive Scopulariopsis brevicaulis Infection in a Case with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

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To the Editor,

*Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* mainly causes infection in immunosuppressive host. We report a case of *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* infection in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). A 34-year-old woman was diagnosed as having SLE 2 years ago and treated with prednisone and hydroxychloroquine. This patient had experienced joint pain, swelling, fever, butterfly rash, skin lesions, and extreme fatigue. Laboratory tests showed positive antinuclear antibodies (anti-double-stranded DNA antibody, anti-nucleosomes antibody) positive, elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (92 mm/h), C-reactive protein (16 mg/dl), and complement

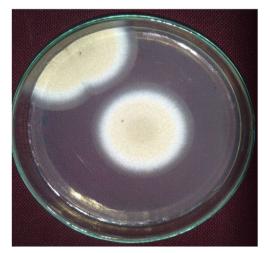


Fig. 1 SDA shows Brown colonies with powdery surface of *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* 

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deficiency (C3: 30 mg/dl; C4: 6 mg/dl). Routine blood culture method showed the presence of *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis*. Sabouraud's dextrose agar (SDA) plate showed the brown colonies with powdery surface (Fig. 1). In addition, light microscopy observation showed the branched conidiophores with chains of lemon-shaped conidia.

### Discussion

SLE is a complex autoimmune disease, encountered mainly in young females especially in their child-bearing years. Diagnosis of SLE is mainly based on the criteria of the American College of Rheumatology and SLEDAI score. SLE patients have a predisposition to develop many infections which causes morbidity and mortality. *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* is a nondermatophytic mold found in soil as a saprophyte [1]. *Scopulariopsis* infection mainly occurs in immunosuppressive individuals and may lead to invasive fungal infection. Timely diagnosis of causative agents would be help-ful to select proper treatment in SLE patients.

#### Declarations

**Ethics and Consent** Informed written consent has been obtained from patient and ethical approval was obtained.

Conflict of Interest The authors declare no competing interests.

## Reference

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