

## CEREBRAL MUCORMYCOSIS IN AN INTRAVENOUS DRUG USER: CASE REPORT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

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31-yr old Caucasian female, active intravenous drug user, presented with hemiparesis and slurred speech. Imaging studies revealed a large mass in the left basal ganglion with midline shift. Stereotactic biopsy was performed and histopathological examination of the tissue revealed aseptate, broad hyphae with right angle branching and cultures of the tissue grew *Rhizopus* sp. Antibodies to HIV were negative. The patient was treated with intravenous high-dose Amphotericin B. A day later she developed herniation of the brain stem and despite ventilatory support and placement of a ventriculostomy, she died.

Twenty eight cases of cerebral mucormycosis associated with intravenous drug use were identified in the literature. 10(2.7%) of these patients survived. All the surviving patients had received Amphotericin B and 3(0.3%) of these patients underwent surgery, in addition. Cerebral mucormycosis is an uncommon but potentially fatal infection in injection drug users. A high index of suspicion should be maintained in evaluating injection drug users with central nervous system symptoms. High-dose Amphotericin B along with surgical resection remains the mainstay of therapy.