
NEW EMERGING FUNGAL PATHOGENS IN TWO RENAL TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

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Organ transplantation has increased by more than 20% in the last decade and the percentage of fungal infections in this population has increased accordingly. New species of fungi are emerging as new pathogens as they invade and cause disease in the immunocompromised host such as the transplant patient. Some of these new species belong to the phaeohyphomycosis group, the darkly pigmented fungi. The most commonly reported species are *Exophiala* and *Alternaria*; however, here we present the first case in a kidney transplant with *Aureobasidium pullulans* and the second case with *Chaetomium* sp.

A 61 year old male, a passionate gardener, s/p kidney transplant presented 2 years posttransplant with multiple lesions in his left arm, left index finger and right knee. In January 2002, he underwent excision of these lesions and the culture grew *Aureobasidium pullulans*. He was treated with itraconazole, however his lesions recurred on his left forearm and left middle finger. He underwent 2 more surgical excisions while on itraconazole therapy. This was followed by a skin graft. Despite all efforts, he ultimately succumbed to multiorgan failure and sepsis.

The second patient, a 60 year old male s/p kidney transplant November 2002, developed a swelling for 3 months on his right index finger near the proximal interphalangeal joint one year posttransplant. Incision and drainage was done and culture was positive for *Chaetomium* sp. The patient was treated successfully with itraconazole.

As our immunocompromised population increases, so does the number of fungal pathogens. New species of fungi rarely seen before causing disease in humans are now being identified with increased frequency. Some of these presentations are likely de novo, however some are probably reactivation from exposures prior to transplantation. Therefore, our awareness and rapid intervention diagnostically and therapeutically is of utmost importance for the successful treatment of our patients.