

A difficult-to-treat case of mucormycosis

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Introduction: Mucormycosis is a rare invasive fungal infection that is difficult to treat. Correction of underlying disease, aggressive surgical debridement and systemic amphotericin B are the cornerstones of treatment. Although treatment-resistant cases have been reported in the literature, there are not enough data in the treatment guidelines to support combined antifungal therapy. In this article, we aimed to present a case of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and mucormycosis treated with recurrent debridement and combined antifungals.

Case A 79-year-old patient with CLL was followed-up for 3 years without treatment. Due to stage 3 symptomatic disease, he treated with bendamustine and rituximab. Three months after this treatment, the patient had hearing loss, redness of the outer ear, swelling, and tomography was taken. Imaging revealed right nasal cavity and lytic lesions suggesting mucormycosis in the ear. He was operated by otolaryngologist and histopathologic examination was in compatible with mucormycosis. Therefore, liposomal amphotericin B 5 mg / kg was started intravenously. The patient was operated on by the otolaryngologist for 7 times, each time the necrotic tissues in the middle-outer ear, ear canal and sinuses were removed. Despite the liposomal amphotericin B and recurrent debridement, there was not enough improvement. So that micafungin 1x150 mg was added to amphotericin B treatment considering clinically resistant fungal infection. One week after the addition of micafungin, the patient's examination findings improved and fever control was achieved. After 45 days of treatment, the patient was discharged with oral posaconazole. The total duration of treatment with oral treatment was completed to three months. Antifungal treatment was discontinued when no pathology was detected in his controls.

Conclusion: Mucormycosis is difficult to treat condition in many cases. Combined use of antifungals can be life-saving in cases that are unresponsive to standard treatments.