

Case Report :



Cerebral Phaeohyphomycosis: a Rare Case from South India

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ABSTRACT

Background and Importance: Cerebral phaeohyphomycosis is a rare but frequently fatal clinical entity caused by dematiaceous fungi like *Cladophialophora bantiana*. Fungal brain abscess often presents with subtle clinical symptoms and signs, and present diagnostic dilemma due to its imaging appearance that may be indistinguishable from other intracranial space-occupying lesions. Still, certain imaging patterns on computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) help to narrow down the differential diagnosis and initiate prompt treatment of these infections.

Case presentation: A 48-year-old immunocompetent man presented with right-sided hemiparesis and hemisensory loss and a provisional diagnosis of stroke was made. The radiological evaluation suggested the possibility of a cerebral abscess. Accordingly, surgical excision of the lesion was performed and the histopathological examination of the specimen revealed the etiology as phaeohyphomycosis. The patient was further treated with antifungals and discharged when general conditions improved.

Conclusion: Fungal central nervous system (CNS) infections present diagnostic challenges and should be considered while interpreting ring-enhancing CNS lesions in immunocompetent patients. Surgical resection and antifungal treatment should be considered in all patients with cerebral phaeohyphomycosis.

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