

Clinical Findings in Rare and Emerging Fungal Infections

Dr. Murat Akova

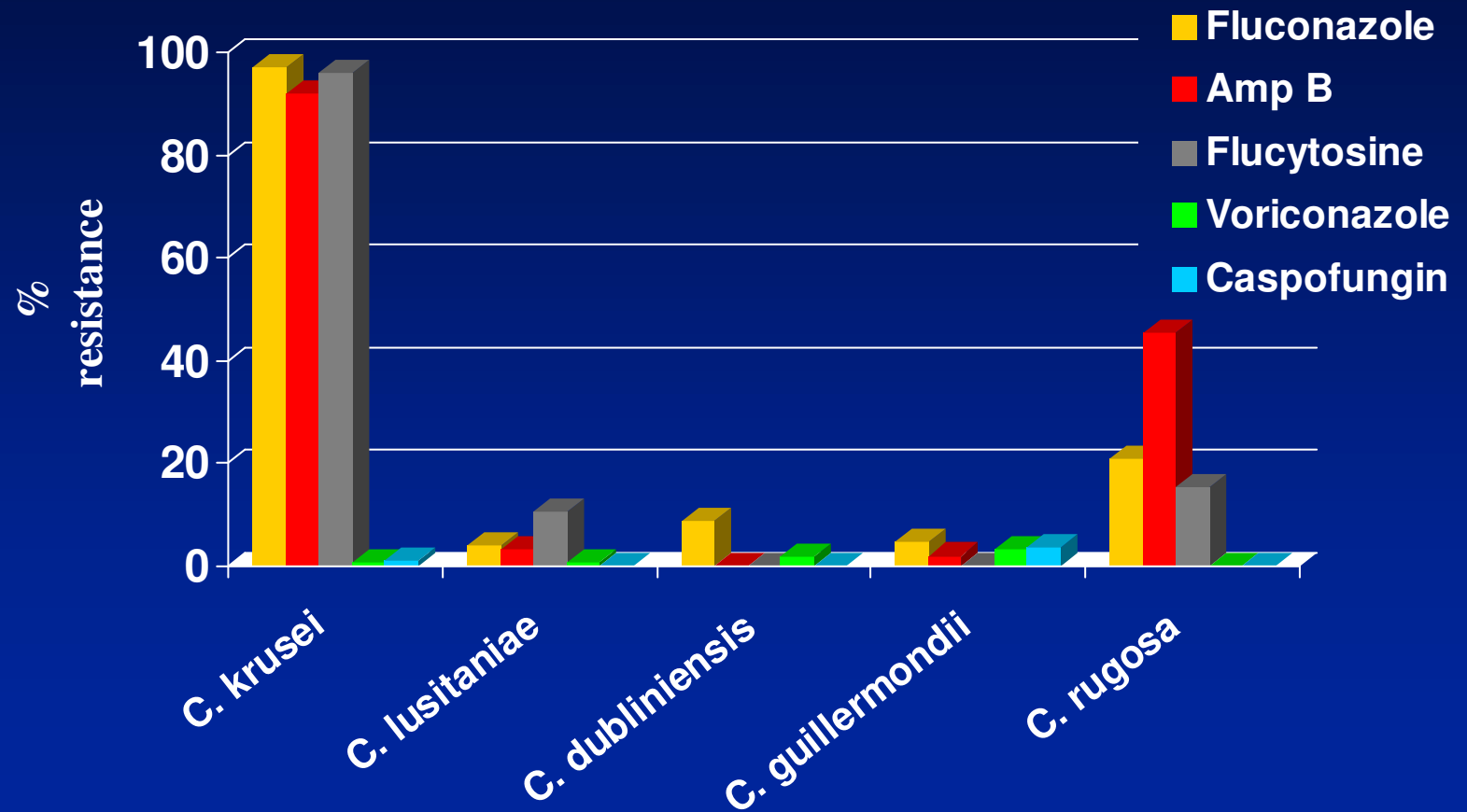
**Hacettepe University School of Medicine
Section of Infectious Diseases
Ankara, Turkey**



Rare and Emerging Opportunistic Fungal Pathogens

- **Candida species**
 - C. krusei
 - C. lusitaniae
 - C. dubliensis
 - C. guilliermondii
 - C. rugosa
- **Opportunistic yeast-like fungi**
 - Trichosporon spp.
 - Rhodotorula spp.
 - Blastoschizomyces capitatum (Geotrichum capitatum)
- **Hyaline molds**
 - Aspergillus terreus
 - Zygomycetes
 - Other molds
 - Fusarium spp.
 - Acremonium spp.
 - Scedosporium spp.
 - Paecilomyces spp.
 - Trichoderma spp.
- **Dematiaceous molds**
 - Bipolaris spp.
 - Exophiala spp.
 - Phialophora spp.
 - Wangiella spp.

Resistance to Antifungals Amongst Rarely Isolated *Candida spp.*



Opportunistic Yeast-like Fungi

- **Similar clinical picture as seen in candidiasis**
- **Frequent CNS involvement**
- **Mucositis/catheter-related**
- **Peristant fever and progressive skin lesion while receiving Amp-B**
- **High mortality**

Febrile Neutropenic Patient

- 45 years old, male with AML
 - 4 cycle Ara-C, the last one 2 weeks ago
- On admission
 - Body temperature, 39.5 °C, PMNL 100/mm³
 - Had a central venous catheter
 - Many cutaneous papulopustular lesions with central necrosis, a few purpuric
 - Subcutaneous painful nodules in both legs





**Fundoscopic
examination**



**Muscular ultrasonography
of the left leg**

Febrile Neutropenic Patient

- **Blood cultures and skin biopsy revealed a yeast**
- **Amp B initiated with GCSF**
- **Catheter was removed**
- **Fever persisted, fluconazole was added 3 days later**
- **On 8th day PMNL was 1500/mm³**
- **No defervescence**

Febrile Neutropenic Patient

- **Chest X-ray: Bilateral pulmonary nodules**
- **Pulmonary CT: Bilateral multiple nodules**
- **Abdominal CT: Hepatosplenomegaly with multiple hepatic abscesses**

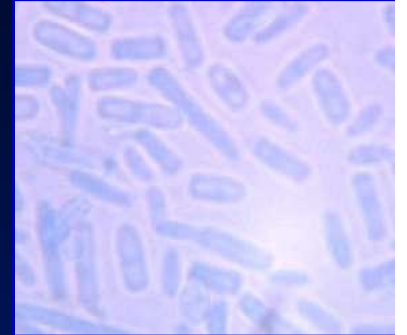
Trichosporon spp.

- ***T. asahii* and *T. mucoides* cause invasive infection**
 - Most common noncandidal yeast infection in hematologic cancer patients
 - Mortality >80%
 - Catheter-associated fungemia in neutropenics
 - Multiple cutaneous lesions
 - Mimics hepatosplenic candidiasis
 - Decreased susceptibility to Amb B and “old” azoles

Rhodotorula spp.

- **Commensals in skin, nails and mucous membranes, cheese and milk products**
- **Widely disseminated in environment**
- **Cause of infections**
 - **Fungemia**
 - **Ocular infections**
 - **Peritonitis**
 - **Meningitis**
- **Highly sensitive to Amp B**

Blastoschizomyces capitatus



- **Widely distributed in nature**
 - May be a normal skin colonizer
- **Very similar picture to that of *Trichosporon spp.* in patients with hematologic malignancies**
 - Disseminated organ involvement including brain
 - 60-80% mortality

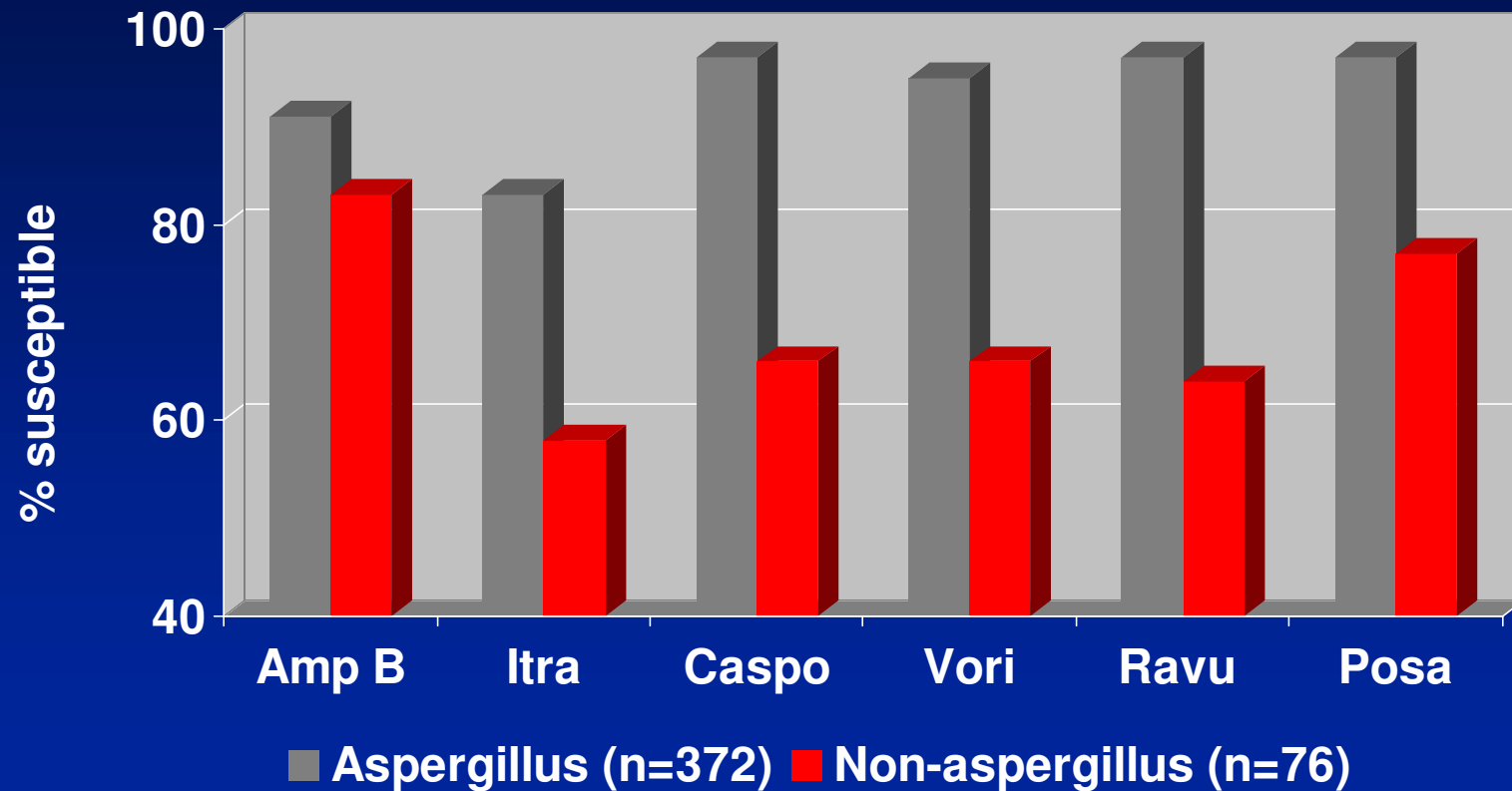
Malassezia spp.

- **Lipophilic yeasts**
- **In immunocompromised patients with iv lipids**
 - **Persistent fever, pulmonary infiltrates, thrombocytopenia**
 - **Folliculitis**
 - **Catheter-related fungemia**

Non-Aspergillus Molds

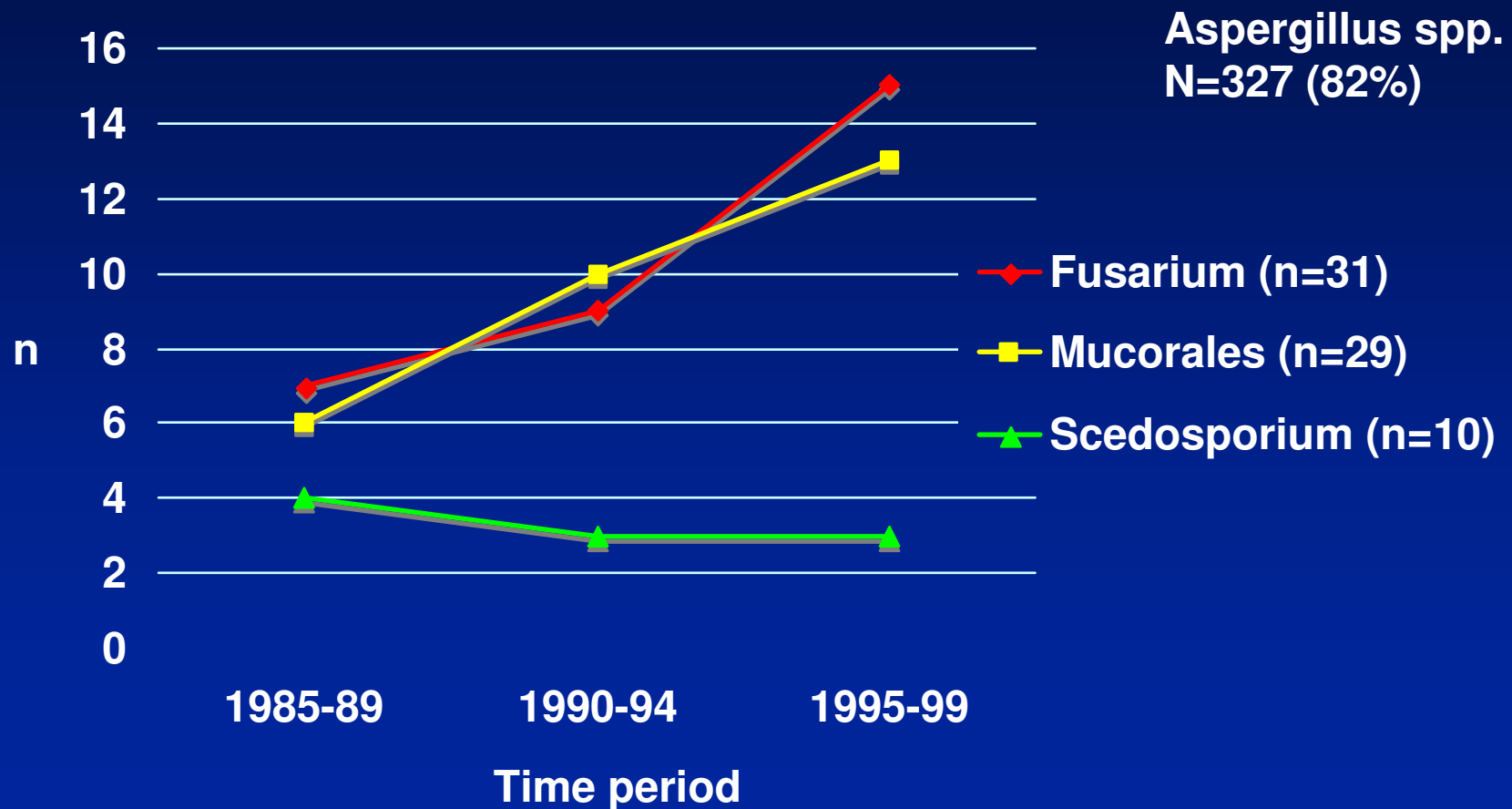
- **Similar clinical picture as seen in aspergillosis**
- **More frequent skin lesions**
- **More frequent CNS involvement**
- **Fungemia**
- **Persistent fever in severely immunosuppressed patients receiving conventional antifungal therapy**
- **Difficult-to-diagnose and -to-treat**
- **High mortality**

Susceptibilities of *Aspergillus* spp. and Non-*Aspergillus* moulds



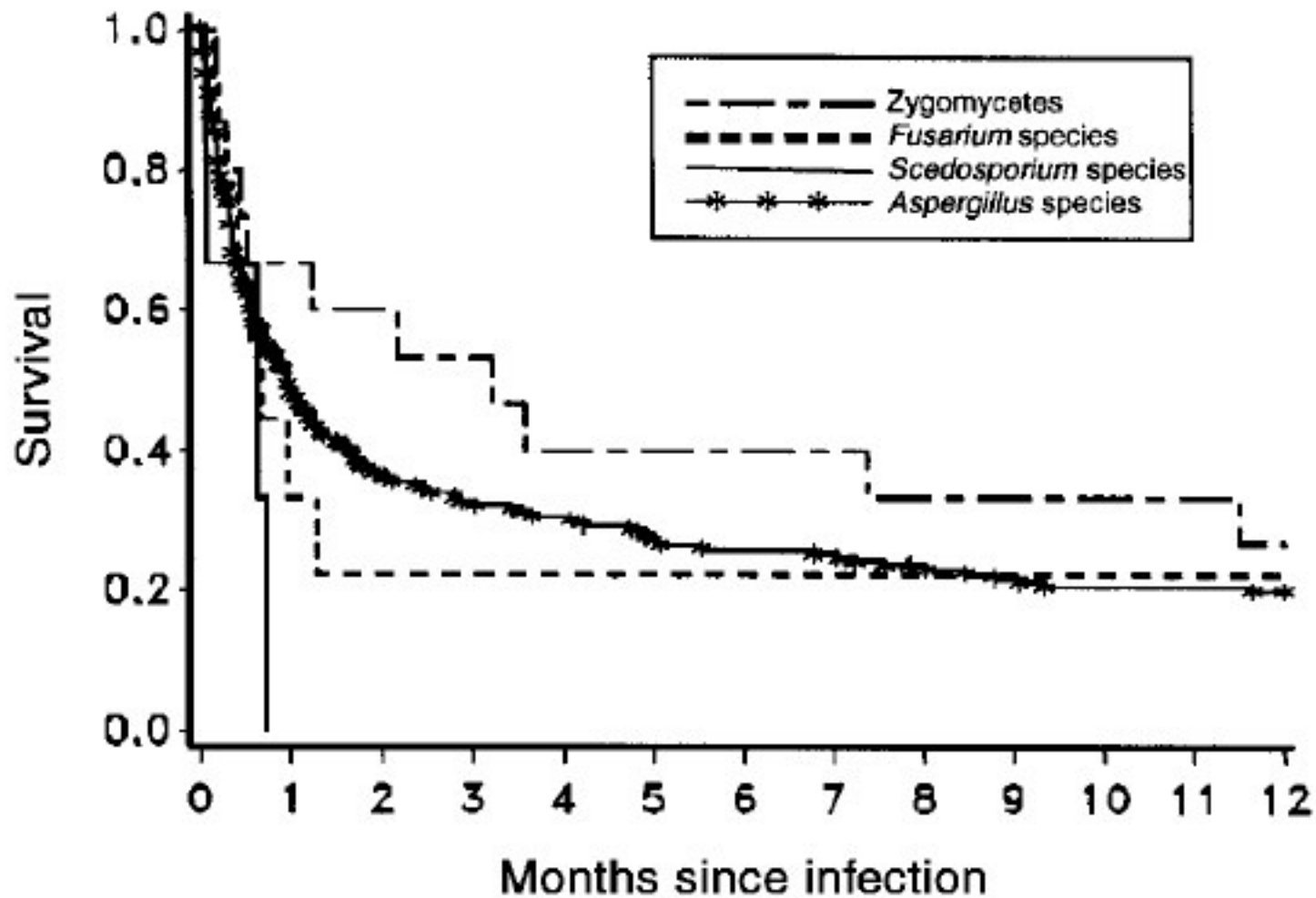
Diekema DJ, et al. J Clin Microbiol 2003;41:3623

Mold Infections in HSCT Recipients



Marr K, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2002;34:909

1-year Survival Rate



Marr K, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2002;34:909



Aspergillus terreus

- 3-12.5% of invasive aspergillosis
- Found in
 - Showerheads, water storage tanks, potted plants
- Adventitious sporulation
 - Yeast-like spores (aleurioconidia) in tissues
 - Can be detected in blood collected for culture
 - Causes true aspergillemia
- Resistant to Amp B

Patient with Acute Leukemia-1

- **72 years old, male, AML M2**
- **Previously treated for 6 months**
 - **No remission**
 - **Several transfusions**
 - **Empirical antibacterial therapy, 6 times**
 - **Received L-Amp B for probable pulmonary aspergillosis**
 - **Receives voriconazole for secondary prophylaxis**

Patient with Acute Leukemia-2

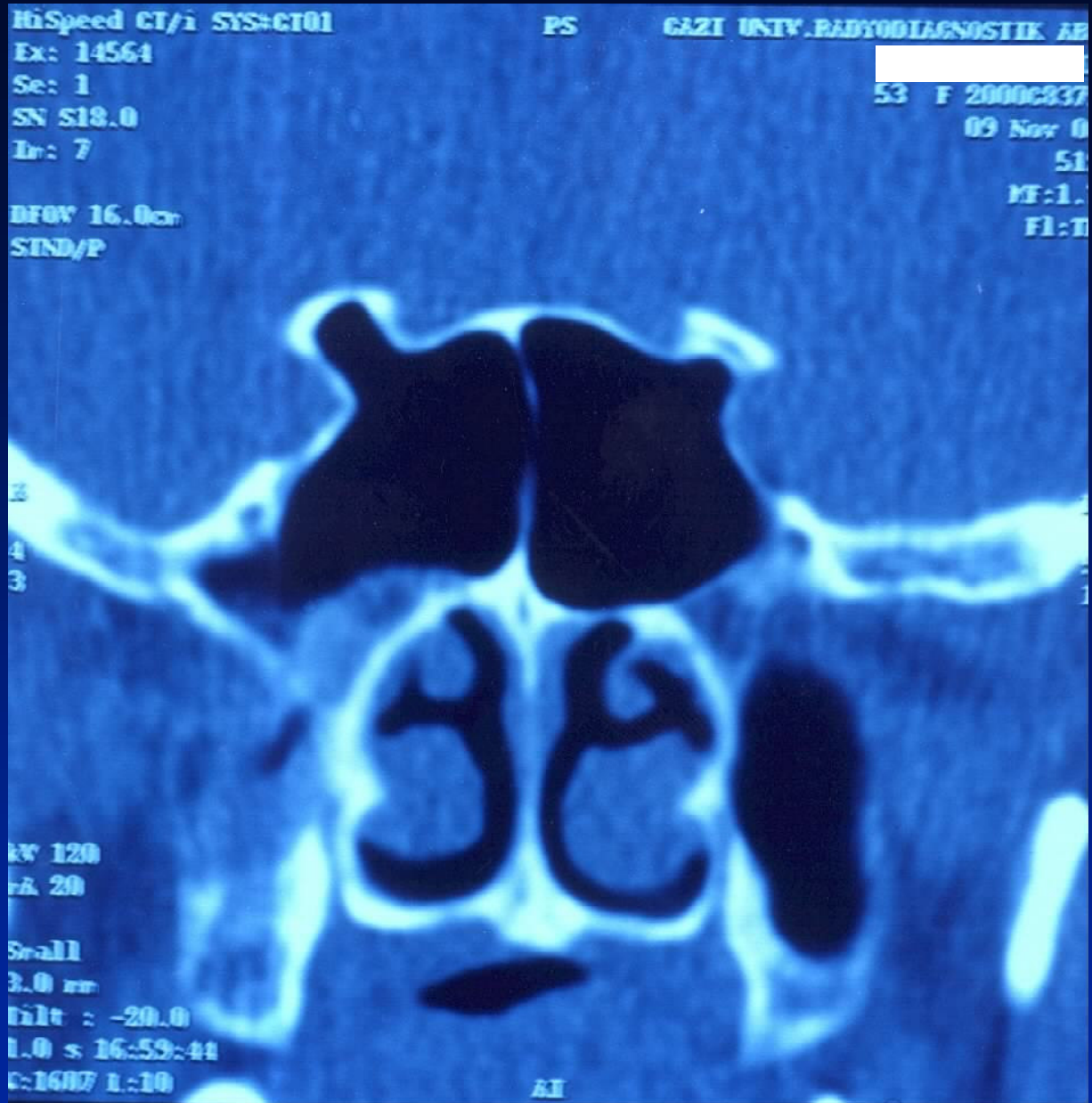
- **After low dose ara-C, neutropenia and fever develops**
 - **38.7 °C, PMNL: 75/mm³**
 - **Pulmonary CT: left basilar nodular infiltration**
 - **Defervesces after empirical antibacterial and L-Amp B therapy**

Patient with Acute Leukemia-3

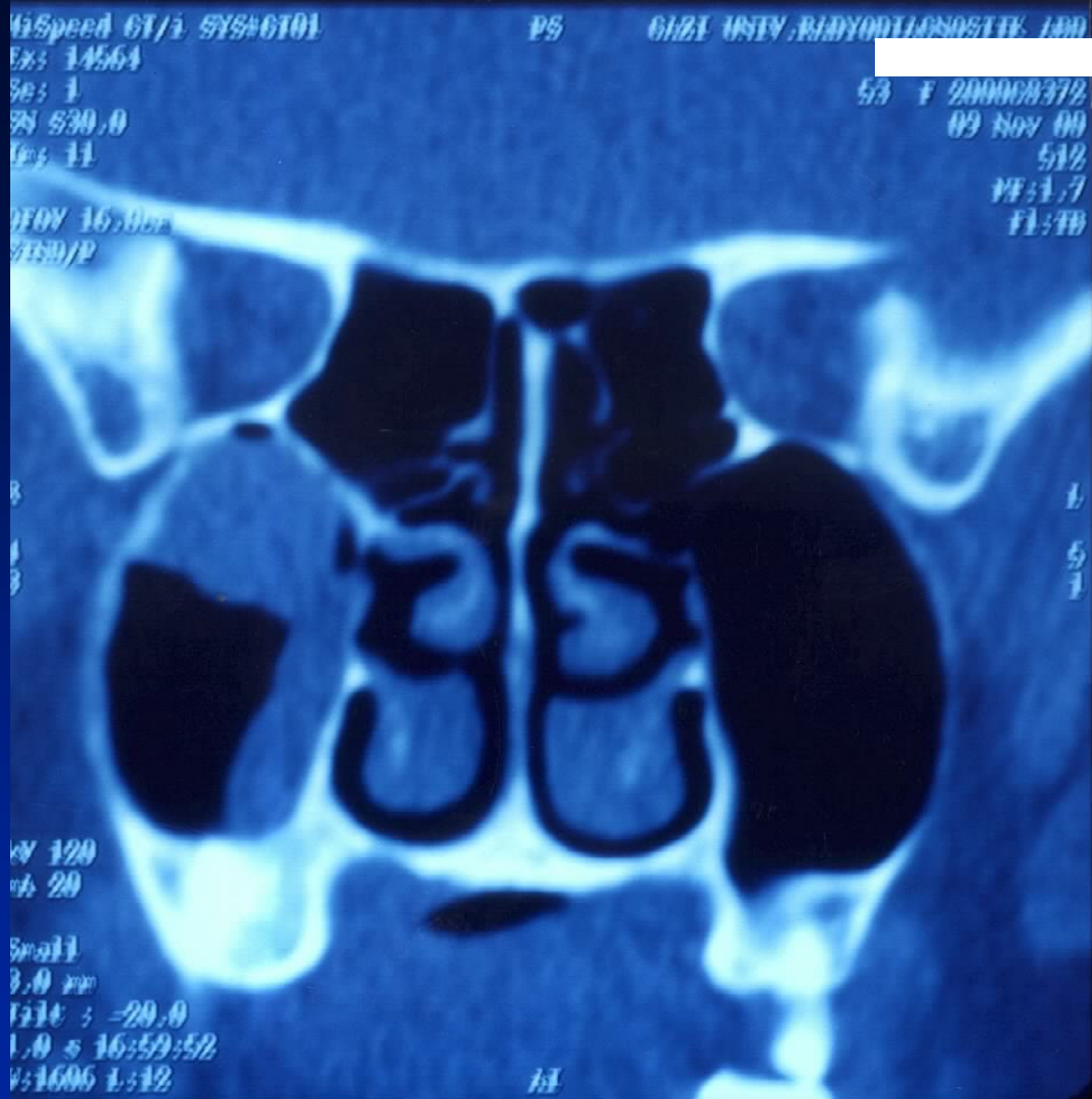
- **During follow up, neutropenia persists (PMNL<250/mm³)**
 - **50% blasts in peripheral smear**
 - **Regular desferoxamin infusions for secondary hemochromatosis**
 - **Oral voriconazole for maintenance therapy**
- **6 months after admission, he develops pain, erythema and edema in right periorbital, maxillary and perinasal region**



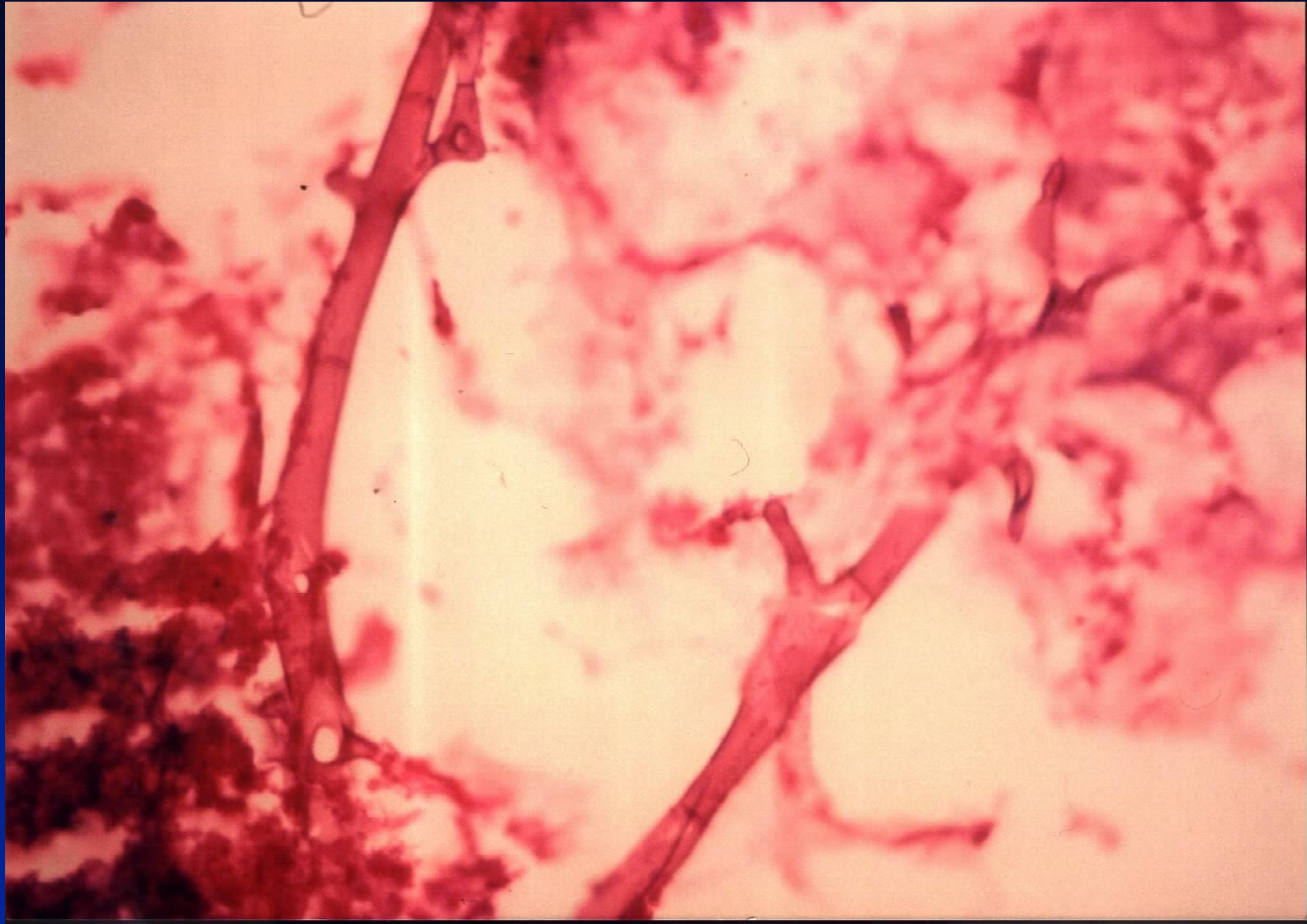
Courtesy of Esin Senol, MD



Courtesy of Esin Senol, MD



Courtesy of Esin Senol, MD



Courtesy of Esin Senol, MD

Zygomycetes

- Members of genera *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, *Absidia*
- Annual rate in US: 1.7 per million population
 - 0.9-1.9% of all allogeneic BMT recipients
 - Incidence increased through '90s
- 70-100% mortality
- Rhinocerebral and pulmonary forms are most frequent
 - Cutaneous, gastrointestinal, disseminated

Zygomycetes

- Members of genera *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, *Absidia*
- Annual rate in US: 1.7 per million population
 - 0.9-1.9% of all allogeneic BMT recipients
 - Incidence increased through '90s
- 70-100% mortality
- Rhinocerebral and pulmonary forms are most frequent
 - Cutaneous, gastrointestinal, disseminated

Skin lesions for Mucormycosis

Pre-treatment



*After
AmB treatment*



*Aspergillus
lesion*



Major Risk Factors for Mucormycosis

- Hematological malignancy
- Neutropenia
- Pharmacological immunosuppression
 - Antineoplastic chemotherapy
 - Corticosteroid therapy
 - Antirejection therapy
- PBSC or solid organ transplantation
- Diabetes mellitus
- Deferoxamine therapy
- Burns, trauma, iv drug abuse
- Previous therapy/prophylaxis with antifungals

Mucormycosis in Patients with Stem Cell Transplantation

- Voriconazole prophylaxis since May 2003
- 45 patients with PBSCT
 - 4 disseminated/pulmonary mucormycosis (8.9%)
 - 3 invasive aspergillosis (6.6%)
 - None received voriconazole prophylaxis
- Before May 2003
 - No cases with mucormycosis
 - 12% invasive aspergillosis

Mucormycosis in Patients with Stem Cell Transplantation

- **September 2002-June 2003**
 - 124 PBSCT
 - 4 patients with mucormycosis
 - All patients had Grade II-IV GVHD prior to infection
 - All receive prophylactic/empirical voriconazole
 - Diagnosis after 21-99 days of voriconazole use
- **During 32 months previously**
 - 370 PBSCT
 - Only 2 patients with mucormycosis

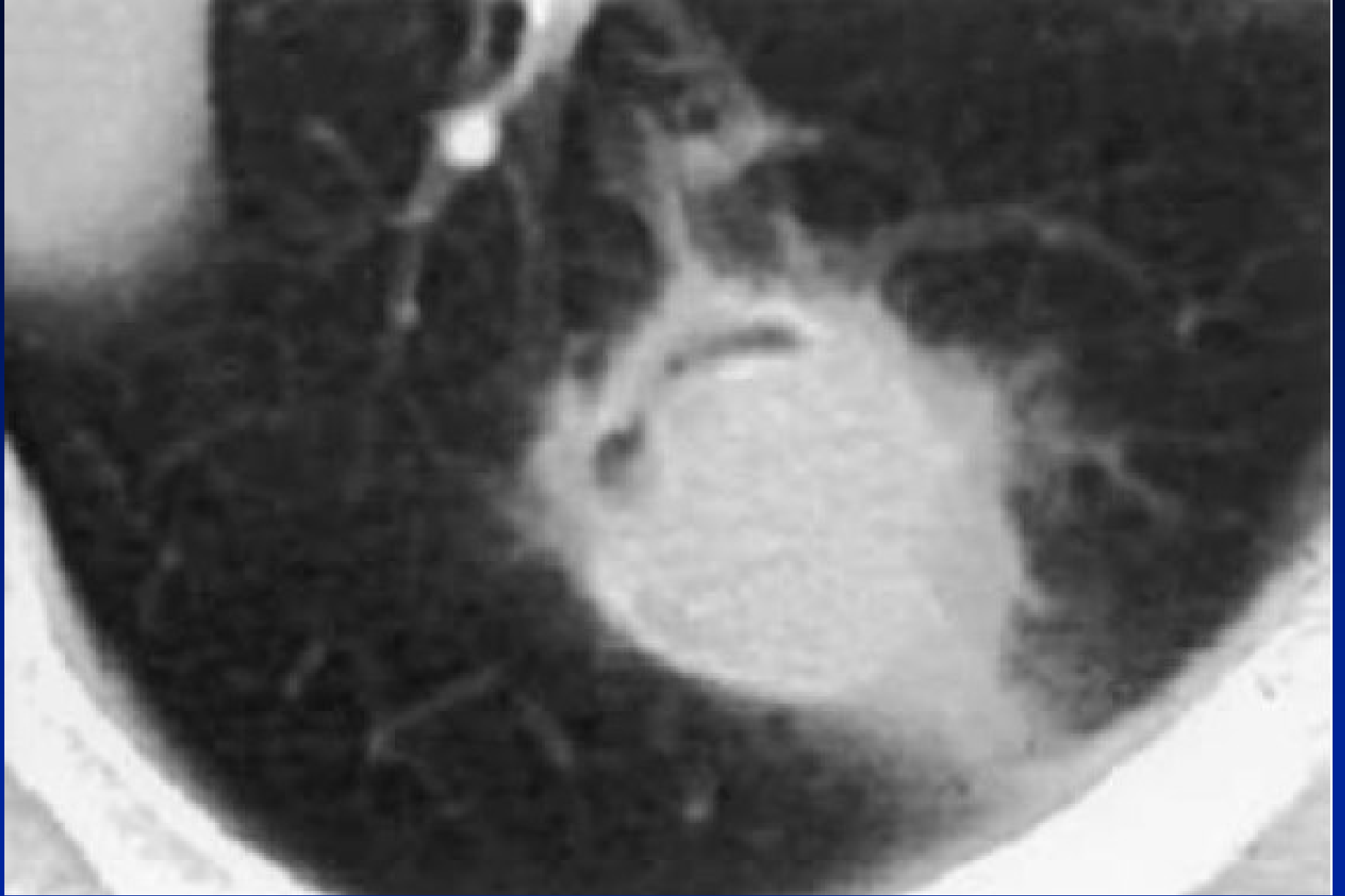
Indicators for Poor Prognosis in Mucormycosis

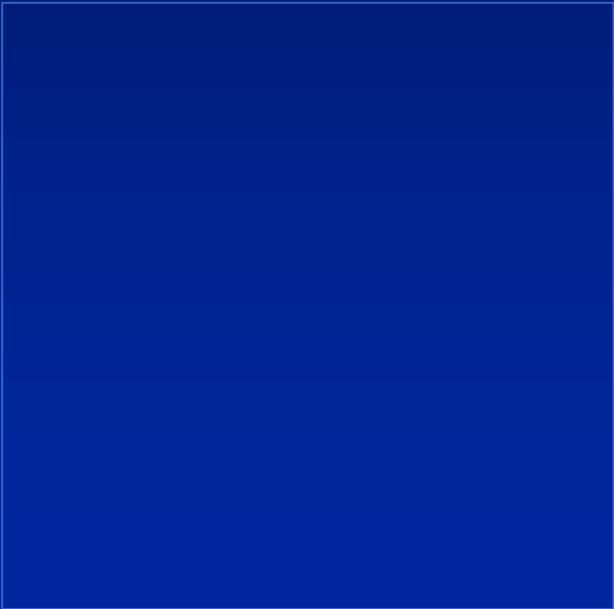
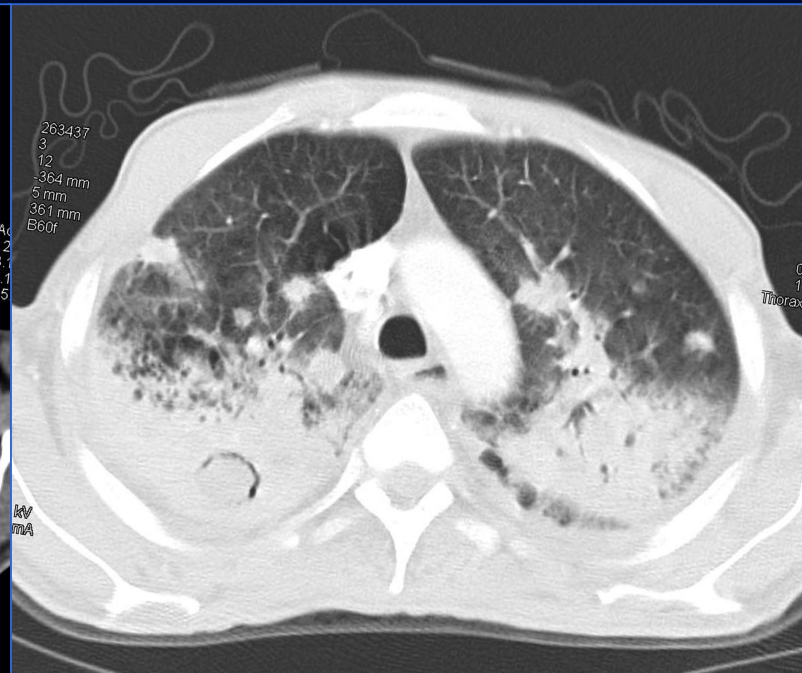
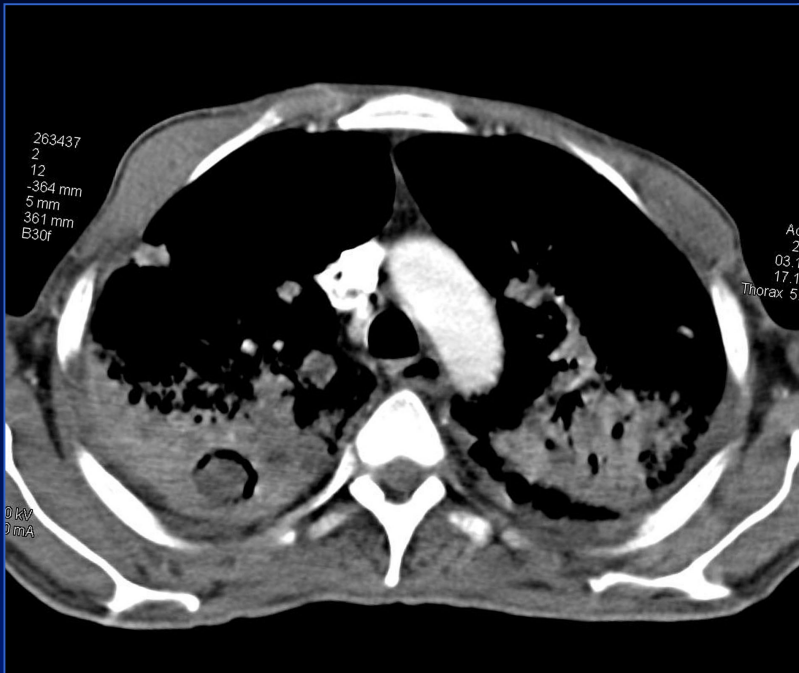
- Delay in therapy (>6 days)
- Symptomatic intracranial involvement with hemiparesis
- Bilateral sinus involvement
- Palatal or orbital involvement
- Underlying leukemia
- Deferoxamine treatment
- Facial necrosis

Pulmonary Mucormycosis

- **Similar findings as in pulmonary aspergillosis**
 - Clinical presentation
 - Radiological findings
 - Air crescent sign in 12-32% of cases
- **Majority of cases have acute leukemia and/or diabetes mellitus**
 - Diabetics may have endobronchial lesions

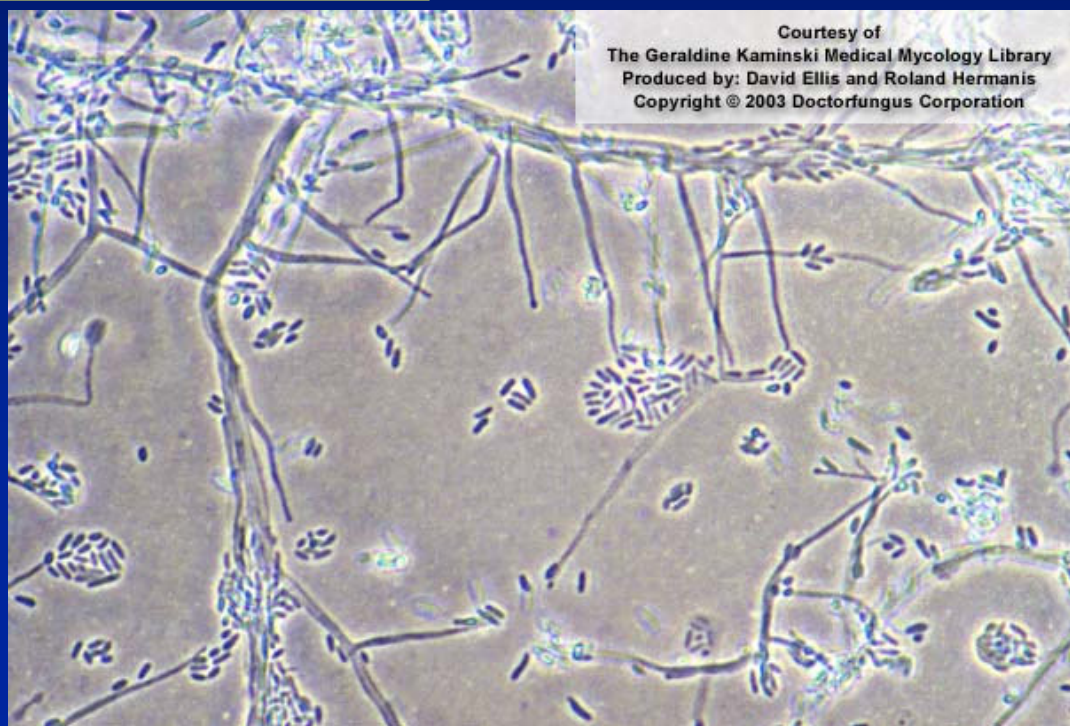
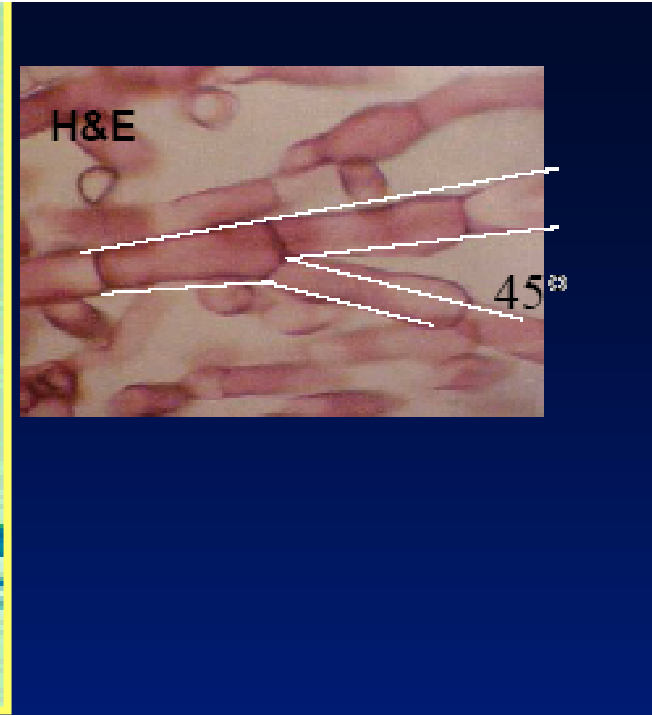
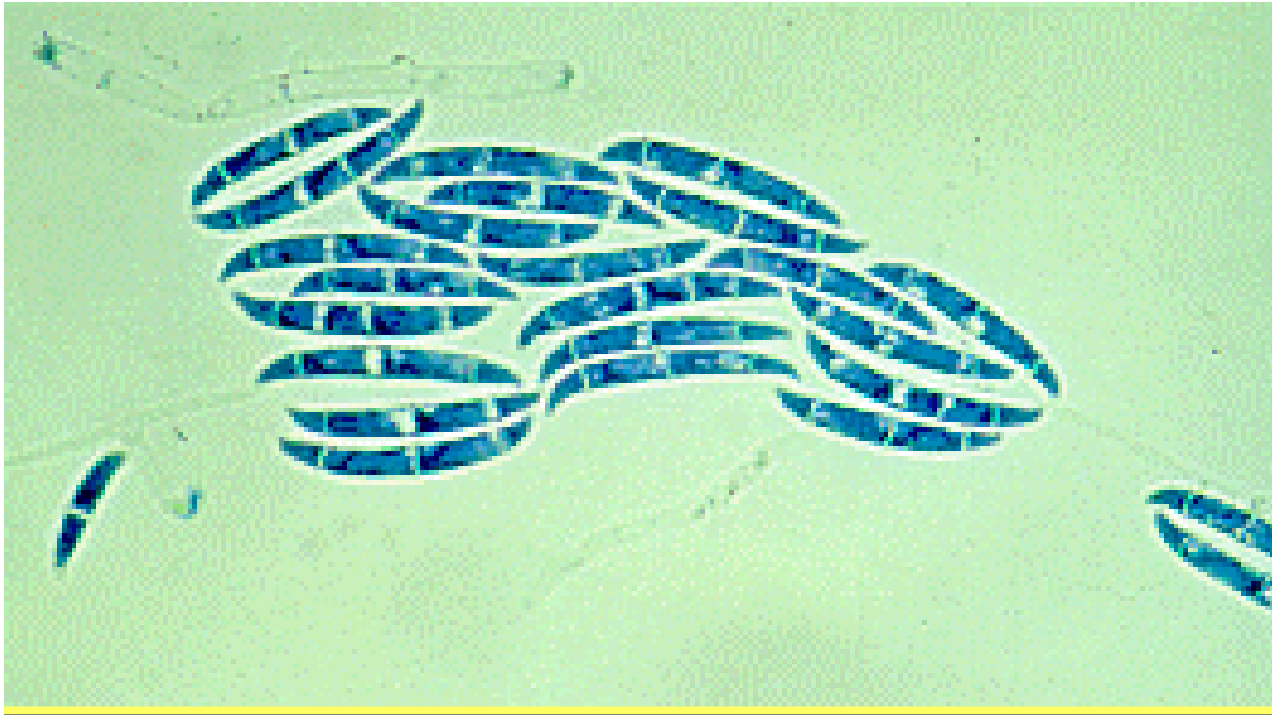
Lehrer RI, et al. Ann Intern Med 1980;9:93
Parfrey NA. Medicine 1986;65:113





Other Hyaline Molds

- “Hyalohyphomycosis”
 - Non-pigmented, septate, branching filamentous fungi
- May be indistinguishable from *Aspergillus spp.* in tissues
- Causes infections in neutropenics
- Produces spores in tissues with concomitant fungemia and multiple cutaneous lesions
- Less susceptible to systemic antifungals than *Aspergillus spp.*



Courtesy of
The Geraldine Kaminski Medical Mycology Library
Produced by: David Ellis and Roland Hermanis
Copyright © 2003 Doctorfungus Corporation

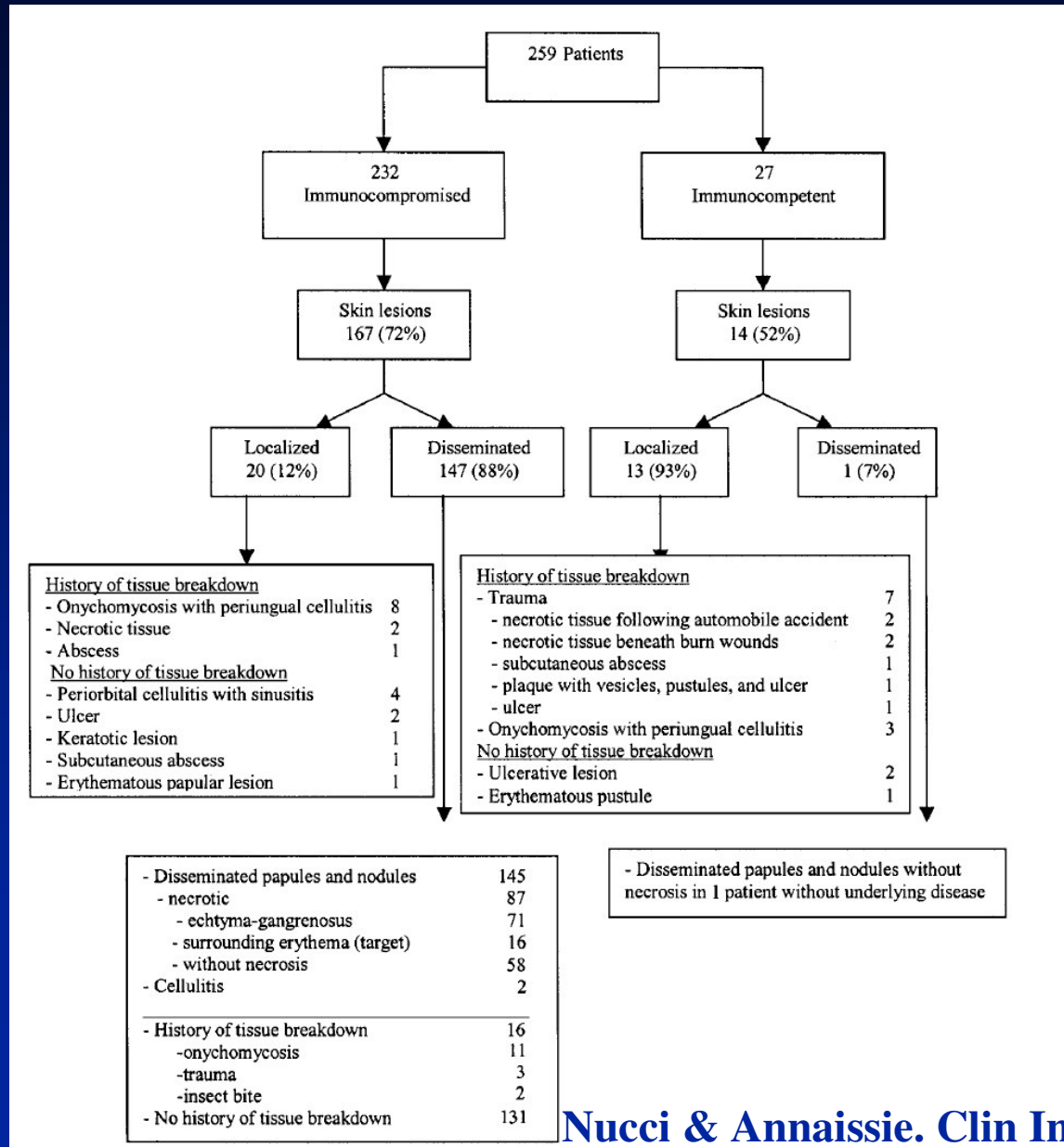
Fusarium and Acremonium spp.

- **Exclusively in neutropenics and other types of immunosuppressive patients**
- **Similar clinical pictures**
 - Hematogenous dissemination
 - Nodular skin lesions
- **Resistant to Amp B**
 - Breakthrough infections during therapy

Fusariosis

- 2nd most frequent filamentous fungal infection in transplant patients
- Fever, pulmonary infiltrates and / or sinusitis
- 40-60% recovered from blood cultures

Skin Lesions Caused by *Fusarium* spp.



Fusarial Skin Lesions in Immunosuppressed Patients

Echtyma gangrenosum



- disseminated
- painful

Target lesion

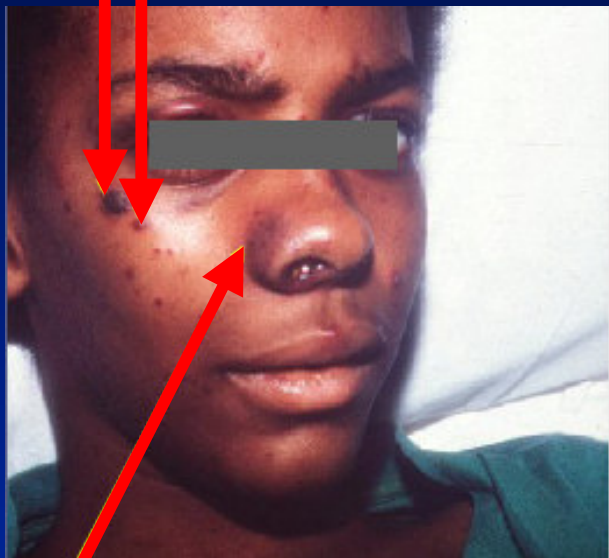


Multiple lesions



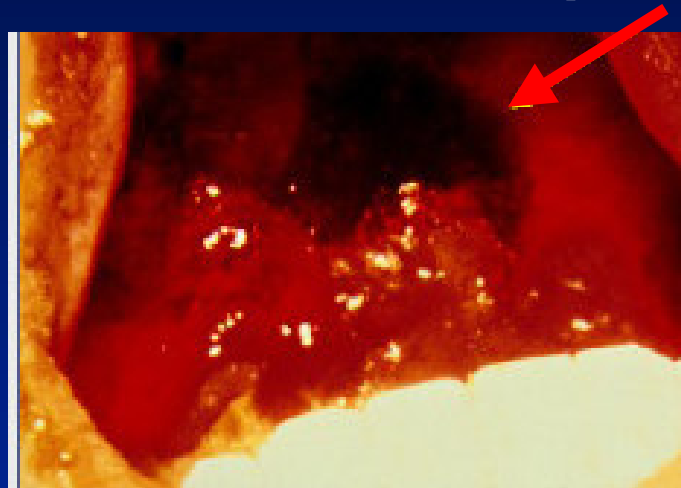
Fusarium: **Paranasal Sellulitis and Sinusitis**

Papular lesions



Paranasal sellulitis

Necrosis on hard palate



- **Similar to aspergillosis**
- **Usually with disseminated disease**

Fusarium Infections: Who, When?

- Patients with acute leukemia:
 - Persistent fever and neutropenia
- Patients with HSCT
 - GVHD and steroid therapy (non-neutropenics)

Onychomycosis



(A)



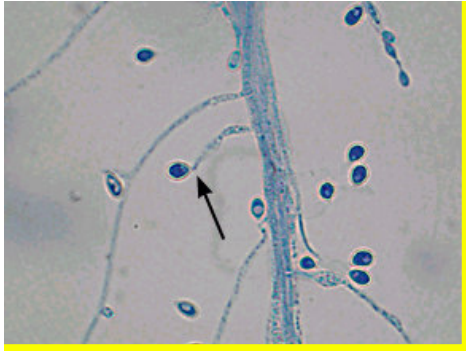
(B)



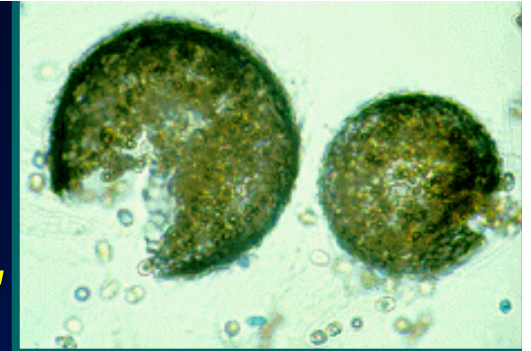
(C)

Sellulitis

- Fungemia
- Sellulitis
- Metastatic skin lesions



Scedosporium spp.



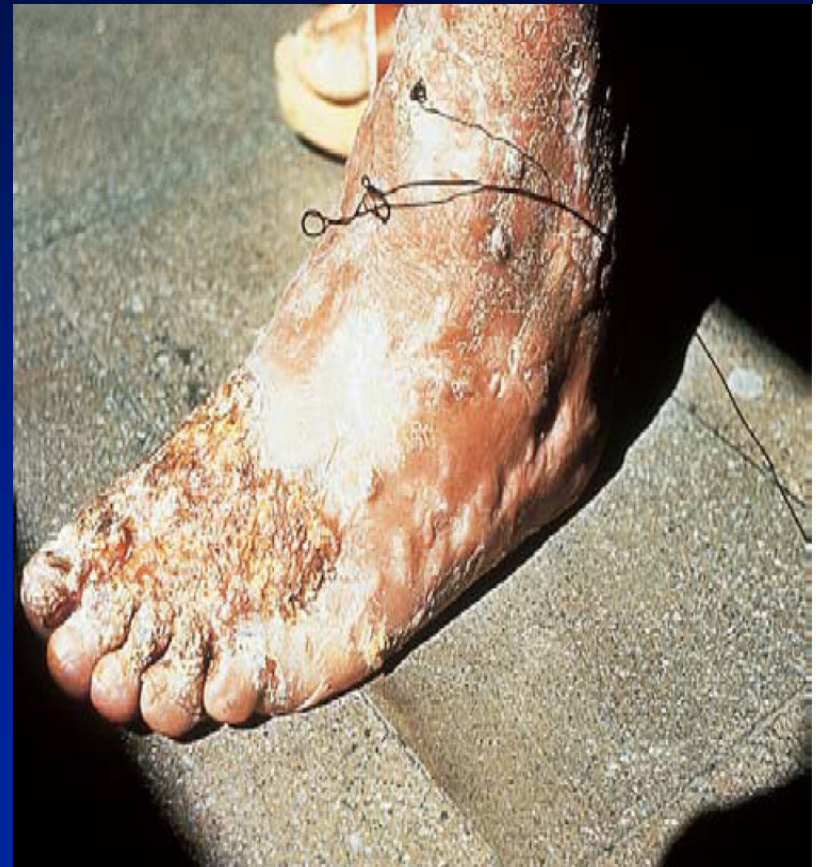
- ***S. apiospermum (Pseudoallescheria boydii)***
 - Mycetoma
 - Deep tissue abscesses (e.g. brain) in BMT recipients and other neutropenics
- ***S. prolificans (S. inflatum)***
 - Bone and soft tissue infections in immunocompetant
 - Disseminated infection in immunocompromised

***Scedosporium* Infections in Transplant Recipients**

- **80 cases of transplant recipients**
 - **57 solid organ**
 - **59% disseminated infection**
 - **23 HSCT**
 - **69% disseminated infection**
- **HSCT recipients were more likely**
 - **have infections caused by *Scedosporium prolificans***
 - **to have an earlier onset of infection**
 - **to be neutropenic**
 - **to have fungemia**

Mycetoma

- After penetrating trauma in immunocompetent host
- The drainage from sinus tracts contains 'grains' that are microcolonies within a matrix



Dematiaceous Molds

- **Phaeohyphomycosis**
- **Pigmented molds**
- **Cutaneous infections in immunocompetant host**
 - **Black pigmented mycetoma**
- **Disseminated infections in immunocompromised**
- **Several neurotrophic agents**
 - **Brain abscesses**

Phaeohyphomycosis Presenting as a Cyst



*From Chandler FW, Watts JC. Phaeohyphomycosis.
In: Connor DH, Chandler FW, Schwartz DA, et al, eds.
Pathology of Infectious Diseases. Norwalk, CT: Appleton & Lange; 1997*

Phaeohyphomycosis of the Brain Caused by *Cladophialophora* sp.



From Chandler FW, Watts JC. Phaeohyphomycosis.

In: Connor DH, Chandler FW, Schwartz DA, et al, eds.

Pathology of Infectious Diseases. Norwalk, CT: Appleton & Lange; 1997

Conclusions

- Any fungal species found in nature can cause infection in a compromised host
- Clinical picture may overlap with those of caused by more common fungi

