

Correspondence:

Cutaneous aspergillosis in a patient with diabetes mellitus

A 67-year-old male patient known to have diabetes mellitus for the past 10 years presented with a swelling near the left elbow joint. He was human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) seronegative. Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) (Figure 1) showed an acute inflammatory exudate suggestive of an infectious aetiology. On Gomori's Methenamine Silver (GMS) (Figure 2) and periodic acid Schiff (PAS) stains (Figures 3 and 4) slender, elongated, septate fungal hyphae with dichotomous branching with fruiting bodies suggestive of acrospores¹ were evident, suggestive of cutaneous aspergillosis.

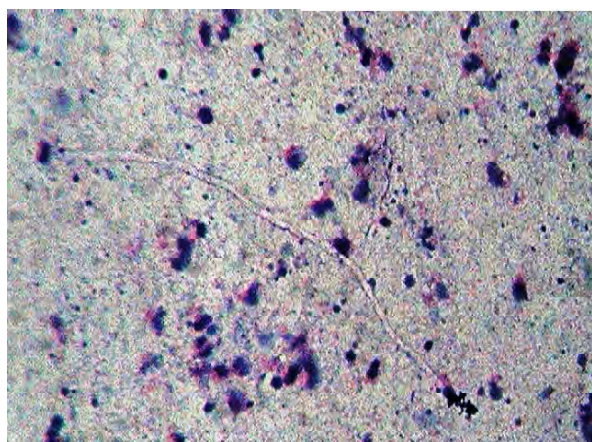


Figure 1: Photomicrograph showing an unstained form of aspergillus and acute inflammatory exudate with (Haematoxylin and eosin, × 400)

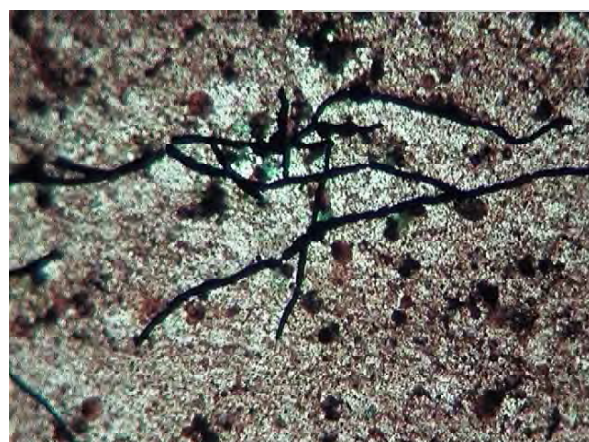


Figure 2: Photomicrograph showing slender septate hyphae of aspergillus with dichotomous branching (Gomori Methenamine Silver, × 400)



Figure 3: Photomicrograph showing aspergillus with slender septate hyphae branching at acute angulation and fruiting body at an end (Periodic acid Schiff, × 400)



Figure 4: Photomicrograph showing a closer view of fruiting body and septate branching hyphae of aspergillus (Periodic acid Schiff, × 1000)

picked up even in tissue biopsies, unless there is an overwhelming number of organisms at the site.⁵

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Received: 03 September, 2012.

Radhika K, Sameera K, Phaneendra BV. Cutaneous aspergillosis in a patient with diabetes mellitus. J Clin Sci Res 2013;2:46-7.