
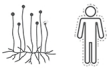


**Black fungus (Mucormycosis)**

what you need to know






**What is black fungus/ Mucormycosis?**

Black fungus, a colloquial term for the diagnosis mucormycosis, is a rare fungal infection known to occur in patients who are severely immunocompromised.

**Is there a connection to COVID-19?**


COVID-19 does not lead to the mucormycosis, but it might show in very few COVID-19 patients due to low immunity and misuse of corticosteroids.




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what you need to know






**What causes the infection?**

The infection is caused by exposure to the fungus in the environment. Spores can be spread most often through inhalation, contaminated food, or contamination of open wounds. Only severely immunocompromised individuals may develop symptomatic infection. It is not transmitted from person to person.

**What does the infection do to the body?**


It most commonly infects the sinuses and brain resulting in a runny nose, one-sided facial swelling and pain, headache, fever, and tissue death. Rarely, it can also infect the lungs, stomach and intestines, and skin.




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**Is mucormycosis treatable?**

Mucormycosis is difficult to treat, sometimes requiring both intravenous antifungal therapy and surgical removal. A mucormycosis patient has to strictly follow the advice of the health care provider.

**Who is at risk?**

Risk factors include diabetes with persistently high blood sugar levels or poorly controlled diabetes), low white blood cells, cancer, organ transplant, iron overload, kidney problems, long-term steroids or immunosuppressant use, and to a much lesser extent in HIV/AIDS.



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World Health Organization  
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

How do we prevent mucormycosis?

- The best way to prevent mucormycosis is through avoiding misuse of steroids, better control of diabetes, and early detection by increasing clinical awareness so there is early diagnosis which can prevent severe disease/death.

● Seek the advice of a health care professional, especially if you have underlying conditions like diabetes and malignancies that put you at risk for more severe COVID-19 and mucormycosis.

Icons: A bottle of medicine, a syringe, a person at a computer, and a shield with a cross.

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