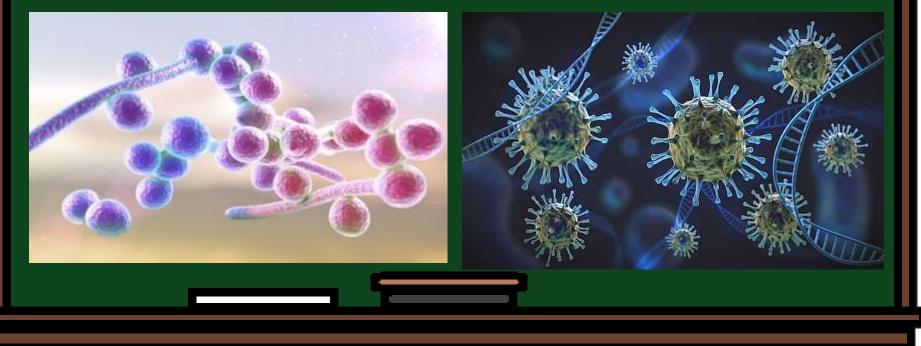


'Tsunami' of nasty fungal infections follows Covid

Diagnosis of mucoromycosis in patients with COVID-19

Present by :

Dr. Mojtaba Didehdar





Mucormycosis

- X Mucormycosis (sometimes called Systemic zygomycosis) is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucorals invasive fungal infections (IFI)
- X Caused by saprophytic environmental fungi, belonging to the subphylum Mucoromycotina, order Mucorales. Among the most frequent genera are Rhizopus and Mucor; and less frequently Lichtheimia, Saksenaea, Rhizomucor, Apophysomyces, and Cunninghamela
- X Rhizopus arrhizus



Mucormycosis

X It is characterized by vascular invasion by the fungal hyphae which leads to thrombosis and necrosis.

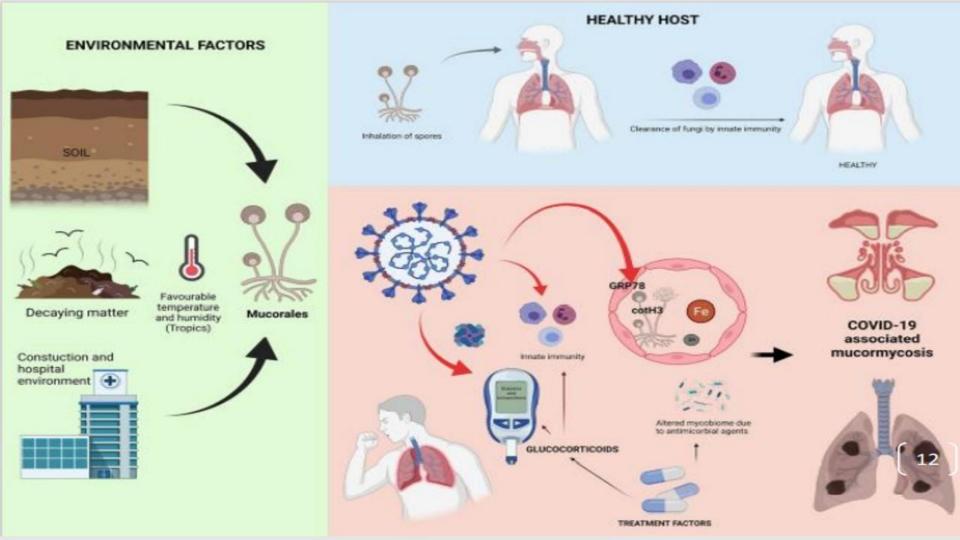
- X There has been a surge of mucormycosis co-infection in COVID-19 patients, many cases being reported worldwide.
- X The incidence of mucormycosis has risen more rapidly during the second wave compared with the first wave of COVID-19 in India, with at least 14872 cases as of May 28, 2021.

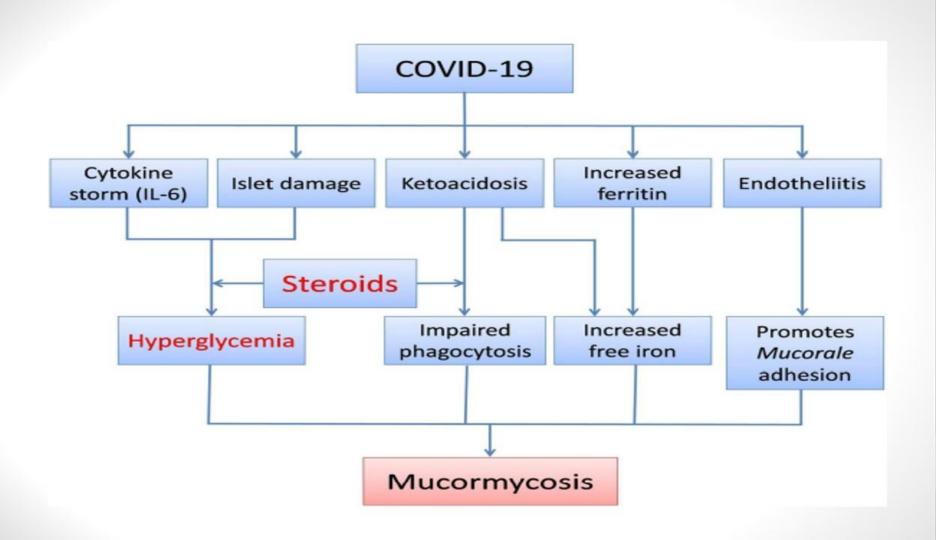
Mucormycosis

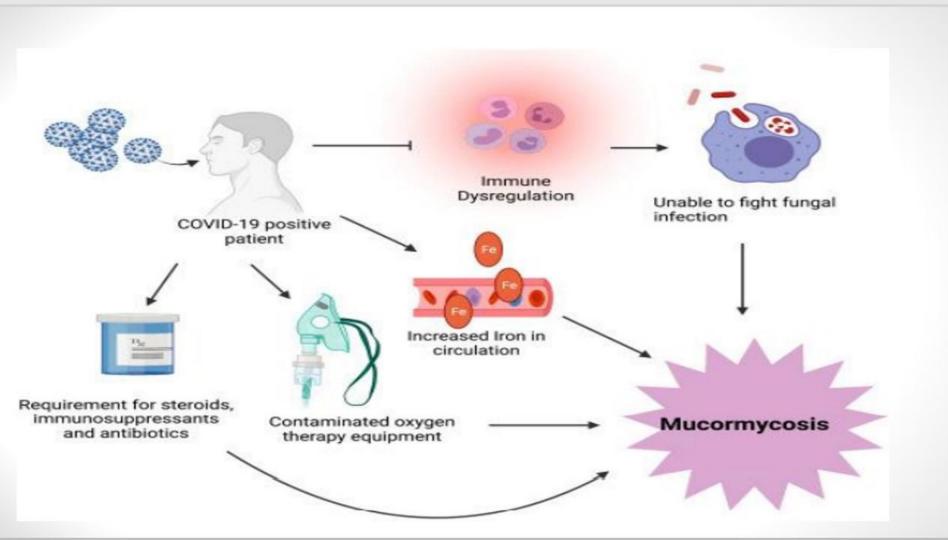
X CAM (Covid associated Mucormycosis) outbreak reasons (Host General Conditions)

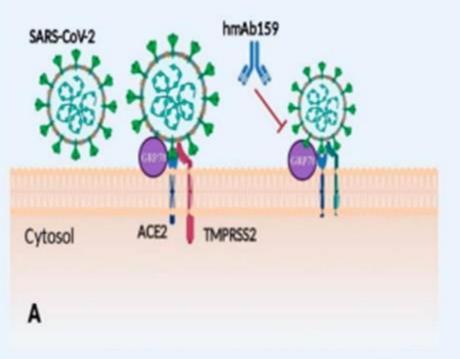
- × Enviromental Factors
- V Diabetes and BS
- X Sreroid therapy
- X Hyper Ferritinemia & Fe
- X Endothelial cell receptor (GRP78 ???)

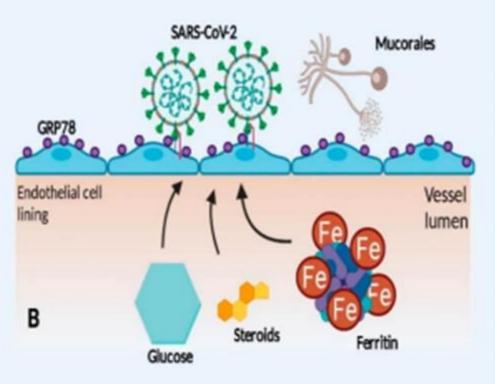








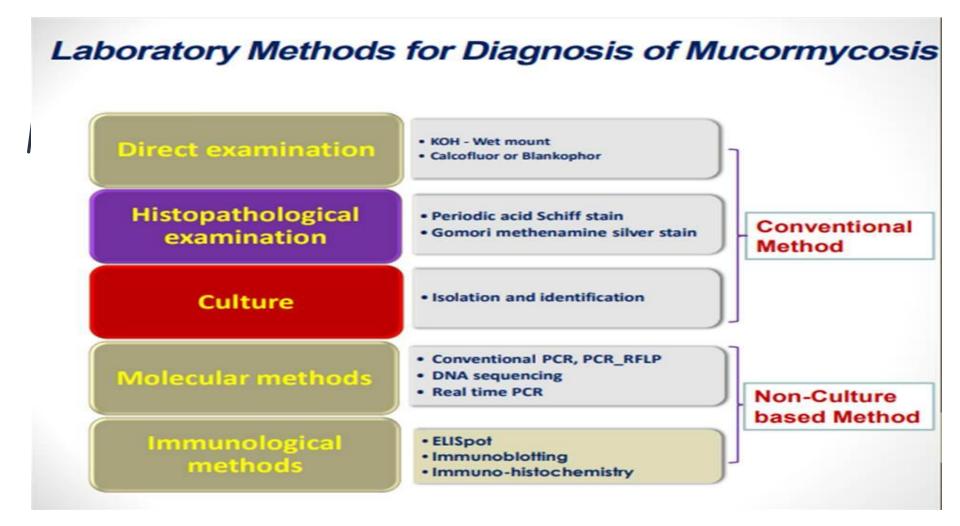




GRP78 may either act as a co-receptor or stablize the ACE2spike protein interaction. Pre-treatment with humanized monoclonal antibody, hmAb159 against GRP78 may disrupt this interaction Increased surface expression of GRP78 on endothelial cell lining in COVID-19 patients and/or with metabolic disorders may clear the decks for pathogenesis of mucormycosis

Diagnosis



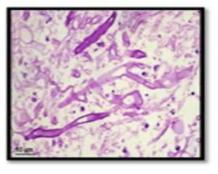


Limitation of conventional diagnostics methods

Invasive specimen collection.

Time-consuming

Needs great personal expertise.

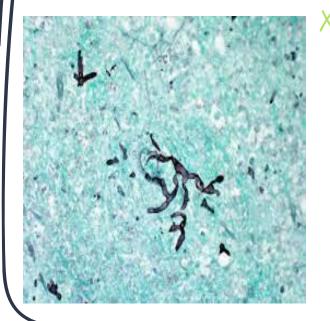




The hyphae of Mucorales may not be abundant so as to be seen. Approximately 50% of histopathologically positive samples remain culture negative.

Some emerging Mucorales species such as A. elegans and S. vasiformis fail to sporulate on routine media.

Culture



The high number of culture-negative findings and, yet, microscopically positive findings may reflect the friability of hyphae and the fragile nonseptated growth of these fungi, thus becoming mechanically damageable during tissue excessive grinding (excessive tissue homogenization should be avoided)



Culture

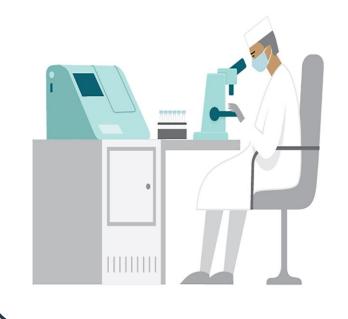
The species-level identification of the causative agent from cultures on the basis of its morphological characteristics is challenging.

Furthermore, requires expertise and proper sampling and the collected strains from patients who receive antifungals, which sometimes show morphological abnormalities making it difficult to perform a correct identification.

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Molecular methods

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The use of molecular-based assays can help to detect different *Mucor* species and it can be recommended as a valuable add on tool that complements conventional diagnostic procedures.

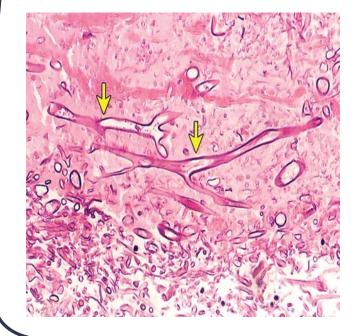


Molecular methods

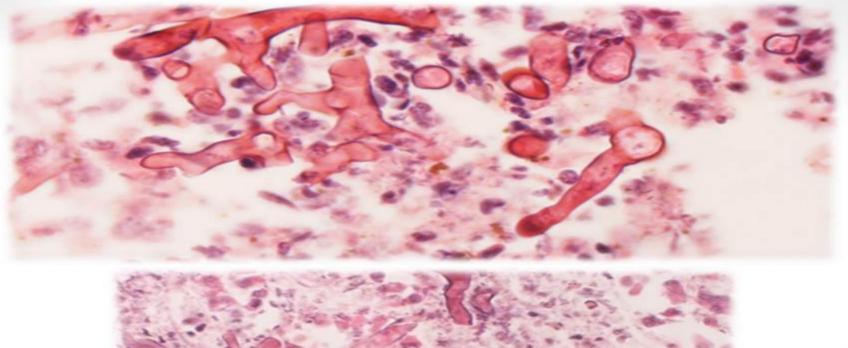
- ✓ Semi-nested qPCR
- ✓ HRM
- ✓ Internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequencing

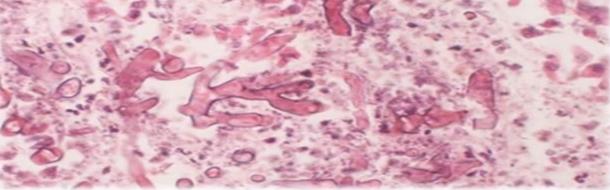
However, the efficiency of molecular-based diagnosis requires a thorough clinical evaluation and has not been widely confirmed; therefore, it cannot be recommended as a standalone, single approach to clinical routine diagnostics.

Histopathological findings

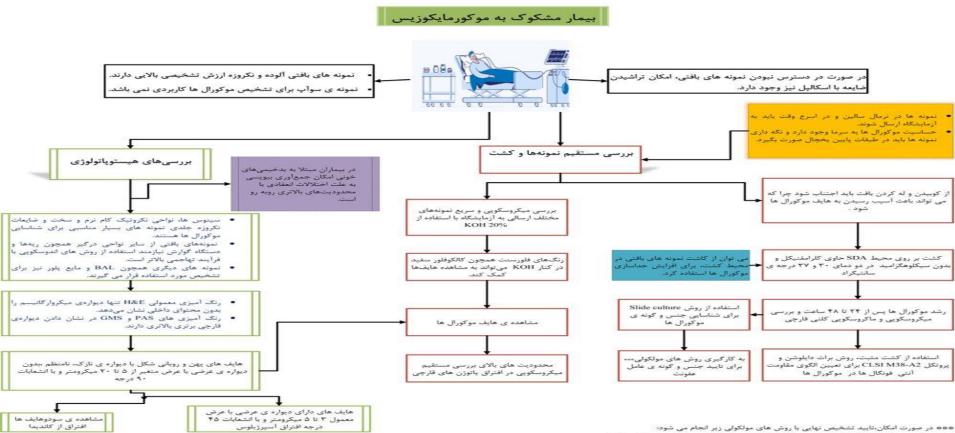


- Histopathological findings can be very helpful in diagnosis.
- Obtaining a diagnosis of mucormycosis on histomorphological basis is challenging, and the most common cause for incorrect morphological diagnosis is the misidentification of Mucorales as *Aspergillus* spp.





فرآیند تشخیص بیماری موکورمایکوزیس در آزمایشگاه های قارچ شناسی پزشکی



16S and Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) Sequencing

- Nested PCR
- Real-time PCR .
- Nested PCR Combined With RFLP .
- High-resolution melt analysis (HRM) .

STEPS TO PREVENT MUCORMYCOSIS



- Keep blood sugar under check Covid or no Covid
- Use steroids judiciously while treating Covid
- Use clean water in humidifier used for 02 support
 - Maintain overall cleanliness around patients
- Any oral ulcer should be treated immediately



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