

EV0980

ePoster Viewing

Mycology

***Alternaria alternata* infection causing rhinosinusitis in an immunocompetent patient**

z. hattab¹, m. abid¹, f. bellazreg¹, a. fathallah², w. hachfi¹, A. Letaief¹

¹*infectious diseases department - chu Farhat Hached, Sousse, Tunisia*

²*parasitology and mycology department - chu Farhat Hached, Sousse, Tunisia*

Introduction: *Alternaria alternata* is a saprophytic dematiaceous mould, found mostly in soil and decomposing vegetation. Among *Alternaria* species, it is the most commonly isolated from human infections. It is a known agent of ocular infections and has been reported to cause both keratitis and endophthalmitis. *Alternaria alternata* is one of the rarest fungi associated with rhinosinusitis.

Purpose: to report a case of *Alternaria alternata* rhinosinusitis in a patient hospitalised in the infectious diseases department between April and June 2014.

Methods: A 19 year old male presented to the ORL department due to head pain, post-nasal discharge and right exophthalmos since 3 months. Computed tomography (CT) scans revealed obliteration of the maxillary and frontal sinuses with destruction of the wall of the orbit and intraorbital extension. The patient underwent a sinus biopsy, meatotomy and an oral antifungals were given for 21 days (voriconazole 200mg/day). The biopsy showed later fungual elements on direct microscopic examination and culture growth of *Alternaria Alternata*.

Results: The patient was treated initially with amphotericin B for 2 weeks and then referred to ORL department for surgical debridement and septoplasty. The recovery was uneventful and patient was discharged with oral antifungals (Itraconazole x2 months). Patient is on regular follow-up without any further complaints. **Conclusion:** Clinicians should consider and include this species as differential diagnosis in cases of chronic sinusitis that is non-responsive to usual management. Only histopathological examination aided by microbiological identification can evoke earlier the diagnosis.