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Paper Poster Session

Fungal infection epidemiology

Malignant otitis externa caused by *Candida*

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Background : Malignant otitis externa (MOE) is an invasive infection of the temporal bone that is classically caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Candida* was rarely involved in MOE and has been identified particularly in immunocompromised patients. The aim of this study was to describe the clinical characteristics and outcome of MOE caused by *Candida*.

Materials/methods : It is a retrospective study including all patients with diagnosis of MOE caused by *Candida* in an infectious diseases department between 1990 and 2013. The diagnosis was based on a combination of clinical finding, biological and radiological investigations.

Results : We identified 13 cases of MOE (7 man and 6 women). All patients had diabetes. The mean age was 68.7 ± 12 years. The main symptoms were severe otalgia (12 cases), otorrhoea (8 cases), headache (6 cases) and fever (6 cases). One patient developed facial paralysis. Blood glucose levels exceed 11 mmol/l in 10 cases. Granulation tissue at the external auditory canal was found in 5 cases. Nine patients had bone erosion on computed tomography. The pathogens isolated in culture of ear samples were *Candida parapsilosis* (8 cases), *Candida albicans* (4 cases) and *Candida kruseii* (1 case). The mean duration of antifungal treatment was 58 ± 28 days. The evolution was favorable in 10 cases. Two patients died.

Conclusion : MOE caused by *Candida* affected mainly elderly patients with diabetes. A multidisciplinary care is needed, based on appropriate antifungal use and good blood sugar control.