

W41

Educational Workshop

### **Phaeohyphomycosis**

The number of patients with invasive fungal diseases due to emerging and often drug resistant pathogens is rising since patient population with immunosuppression increases and the utilization of antifungal agents against common pathogens such as *Candida* and *Aspergillus* expand. In addition, new diagnostic utilities are being implemented and together with the growth of the antifungal armamentarium, guidelines for the correct utilization in the clinical setting are urgently needed. The objective of guidelines is help National Societies to strengthen their local guidelines in patient care of emerging and rare invasive fungal diseases and provide a guideline on diagnostic procedures and treatment recommendations by European experts for the total spectrum of patients inflicted with diseases due to emerging fungal pathogens. The Phaeohyphomycetes (*Cladosporium*, *Alternaria*, *Bipolaris*, *Rhinocladiella*...) are emerging black pigmented moulds which are increasingly reported in some groups of patients. They are common soil saprophytes, pathogens for plants and able to infect accidentally humans and animals. These species are cause of mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis, other subcutaneous infections, keratitis, joint-bone infections, and allergic sinusitis and allergic bronchopulmonary mycoses in non-immunosuppressed patients after accidental inoculation. In addition, pulmonary infections, cerebral abscesses and disseminated mycoses have been described in immunosuppressed populations in last decades. Rate of mortality of disseminated infections is >75%. Most of species causing phaeohyphomycosis are resistant to available antifungal agents. There are not validated techniques for early detection of mycoses by black fungi. Treatment should include surgery when possible and many experts recommend antifungal combination therapy to treat disseminated infections. Early detection should be implemented and prophylaxis could be also recommended. No particular recommendations can be made so far for different patient settings.