

Maxillary African Histoplasmosis A Differential of Cancrum Oris: A Report of Two Cases.

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INTRODUCTION

Histoplasmosis is a chronic granulomatous disease caused by the dimorphic fungus. Dimorphic fungi manifest in mold form in soils while at ambient temperatures, while taking on a yeast form when infecting a human host (Ocansey et al., 2022). Inhalation of airborne spores is generally the means of transmission. Present as a fungating or ulcerative lesion of the oral mucosa. Oral lesions of histoplasmosis are usually associated with the disseminated form of histoplasmosis. However, they are most commonly found on the tongue, palate,

gingiva, mandible, maxilla and buccal mucosa (N'Golet et al., 2005). It can affect any age group. We therefore report two cases of African histoplasmosis that involved the maxilla.

RESULTS

CASE 1. This is a 62-year-old man who presented to the Dental/Maxillofacial Clinic of Barau Dikko Specialist Hospital with 6-month history of a rapidly spreading ulcer on the right side of the maxilla. There was history of loss of weight due to inadequate diet because of pains from the site and limitation of

mouth opening. Examination revealed a fungating, diffuse ulcer on the right palatal mucosa which has perforated the maxillae. An impression of maxillary malignancy and cancrum oris were made and the incision biopsy was done from the intraoral site and the enlarged lymph node on the right submandibular region. The result showed mycosis. Fungi specific test was done which revealed histoplasma capsulatum.

CASE 2. A 38-year-old man who presented in our clinic with an ulcerative mass on the right side of the maxilla with involvement of the right orbit resulting in bulging right eye ball. The patient was referred to our clinic for obturator after having a maxillectomy surgery was done for him by an Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon. The histology showed the same with case one. Both cases were treated with anti-mycosis itraconazole 200mg daily for 2months.

CONCLUSION

Histoplasmosis remains underdiagnosed and neglected in some parts of the continent. There is need for more research into African histoplasmosis to improve the current perspectives of histoplasmosis and treatment modalities

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