Inonotomy in Patient with Hematologic Malignancy

Ana Fernández-Cruz,1 Mi Kwon,1 Jesús Guinea, Pilar Escribano, María del Carmen Martínez Jiménez, Ana Pulido, Verónica Parra, David Serrano, Jorge Gayoso, José Luis Díez Martín, Emilio Bouza

Author affiliations: Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain (A. Fernández-Cruz, M. Kwon, J. Guinea, P. Escribano, M.D.C.M. Jiménez, A. Pulido, V. Parra, D. Serrano, J. Gayoso, J.L. Díez Martín, E. Bouza); CIBER de Enfermedades Respiratorias (CIBERES CB06/06/0058), Madrid (J. Guinea, E. Bouza)

DOI: https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2401.171265

We report a lung-invasive fungal disease with possible cutaneous needle tract seeding in a patient with a febrile neutropenia caused by the Basidiomycetes mold *Inonotus* spp. Although rare, *Inonotus* spp. should be added to the list of microorganisms causing invasive fungal disease in neutropenic patients with hematologic malignancies.

A 33-year-old man in Madrid, Spain, with chronic myeloid leukemia in lymphoid blast phase underwent allogeneic stem cell transplantation (SCT) from a matched unrelated donor in 2011. Four years later, he had an extramedullary pulmonary relapse, after which he began intensive induction chemotherapy. After the second cycle, prolonged severe aplasia developed in the patient. Invasive fungal disease (IFD) was suspected because of the presence of persistent fever despite broad-spectrum antimicrobial drugs and the appearance of a new pulmonary nodule (Figure, panel A; online Technical Appendix, https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/article/24/1/17-1265-Techapp1.pdf) while the patient was receiving prophylactic micafungin (50 mg/d). Serologic fungal biomarkers were negative. A percutaneous biopsy sample was taken, and empirical liposomal amphotericin B (3 mg/kg/d) was started (December 2015). Histology showed unspecific inflammatory tissue, and microbiology cultures were negative.

Salvage human leukocyte antigen–haploidentical SCT was performed in January 2016. Fever persisted during conditioning therapy, and a solitary cutaneous millimetric erythematous lesion appeared at the biopsy puncture site (Figure, panel B). Histopathology of the skin lesion showed dermal infiltration by periodic acid Schiff–positive elements compatible with fungal hyaline hyphae with parallel walls, regular septa, and branched hyphae with occasional bulb-like expansions; angioinvasion; and necrosis. Fungal culture of the specimen was negative, but panfungal PCR and further sequencing (I) revealed the presence of *Inonotus* spp. Voriconazole was added, and the lesion resolved in days. Neutrophil engraftment was achieved on day 12 post-SCT, with complete donor chimerism.

On day 34, the pulmonary lesion progressed, but we could not prove IFD as the cause of concomitant pleural effusion. Despite intensified antifungal therapy, surgical debridement was required to resolve the empyema. The patient was discharged on oral posaconazole (300 mg/d) that was eventually replaced by micafungin.

A computed tomography scan performed 6 months after the SCT showed persistence of a single mass on the left...
lung inferior lobe together with a new hepatic nodule. We performed pulmonary segmentectomy, and lung histology showed mycetoma with fungal elements similar to those observed in the previous skin biopsy. The fungal culture yielded a fluffy, white, slow-growing mold. The lack of sporulation did not permit morphologic identification, although panfungal PCR and further sequencing again revealed the presence of *Inonotus* spp. in the lung tissue sample.

Filamentous Basidiomycetes molds are ubiquitous and able to colonize in patients with chronic pulmonary disease. They cause syndromes comparable to allergic bronchopulmonary or rhinosinus aspergillosis. However, IFD caused by Basidiomycetes molds are extremely rare (2). It has been hypothesized that IFD could occur in patients with mycetoma if they become immunocompromised. Clinical presentation resembles that of other IFDs, with predominantly pulmonary involvement (online Technical Appendix Table 1). Most filamentous Basidiomycetes are susceptible to antifungal drugs except for fluconazole and echinocandins. However, because many isolates do not sporulate, morphologic identification in the clinical microbiology laboratory is difficult without molecular techniques, and antifungal susceptibility testing is impossible to perform (3).

Invasive disease caused by *Inonotus* spp. (*Phellinus tropicalis* and *P. undulatus*) in humans has been described in 1 patient with diabetic nephropathy (3) and 6 patients with chronic granulomatous disease (4–10). Of note, 4 were breakthrough infections in patients receiving prophylactic itraconazole or posaconazole. Local infections had a favorable outcome; however, 1 patient with more extensive involvement had multiple relapses.

The infection in the patient we report mimicked other invasive mold infections in neutropenic patients with hematologic malignancies. However, we observed fungal invasion in the skin after the percutaneous puncture for the pulmonary biopsy, which suggests fungal seeding from the lung source during sample collection.

The presence of fungal elements invading the tissues supported the diagnosis of IFD; nevertheless, we did not initially consider *Inonotus* spp. to be the causative agent of the IFD in this patient because it rarely causes disease in humans. The clinical significance of the isolation of saprophytic molds in nonsterile clinical samples is difficult to ascertain. However, detection of *Inonotus* spp. in the lung tissue sample taken months after the skin lesion biopsy led us to reassess its potential role as an etiologic agent. In addition, the patient could have acquired the lung infection after inhalation of spores, and selective pressure of previous antimicrobial drugs could have triggered the breakthrough invasive *Inonotus* spp. infection. Antifungal therapy was selected without specific recommendations and without antifungal susceptibility testing (because of the poor sporulation of the isolate). Immunosuppression was more profound and prolonged than in other cases of IFD caused by *Inonotus* spp. Both surgery and antifungal therapy were required, and immunologic recovery, along with a subacute course, were probably essential for the favorable outcome of this patient.

In conclusion, *Inonotus* spp. should be added to the list of potential causal agents of IFD in neutropenic hematological patients. Systematic use of panfungal PCR targeting the internal transcribed tracer regions coupled with sequencing in patients at a high risk for IFD may be helpful for diagnosing rare invasive fungal infections.

Acknowledgments

We thank Thomas O’Boyle for his help in the preparation of the manuscript and the members of the COMIC (Collaboration in Mycology) study group for their contribution to the work: Almudena Burillo, Amaya Bustinza, Ana Cabrero, Ana Fernández Cruz, Ana Pulido, Antonio Vena, Belén Padilla, Carlos Sánchez, Carmen Rodríguez, Diego Rincón, Eduardo Zaratán, Elena Zamora, Emilio Bouza, Fernando Anaya, Gabriela Rodríguez-Macias, Isabel Frias Soriano, Javier Alarcón, Javier García, Javier Hortal, Jesús Guinea, Jesús Torre, Jorge Gayoso, José Eugenio Guerrero, José María Tellado.

Figure. Pulmonary nodule and skin lesion in patient with invasive fungal disease caused by *Inonotus* spp., Madrid, Spain. A) Computed tomography of the lungs shows pulmonary nodule with halo sign in the left superior lobe, with peripheral distribution. B) Skin lesion at biopsy site 4 weeks after biopsy.
José Peral, Lola Vigil, Lorenzo Fernández Quero, Magdalena Salcedo, Mamen Martínez, Manuel Martínez Selles, Manuel Sánchez Luna, María Olmedo, María Sanjurjo, Maricela Valerio, Marina Machado, Marisa Alegre, Marisa Navarro, Marisa Rodríguez, Marta Grande, Mi Kwon, Miguel Martín, Nerea Álava, Paloma Gijón, Patricia Muñoz, Pilar Escrivano, Rafael Bañares, Roberto Alonso, Teresa Hernández Sampelayo, and Verónica Parra.

This work was partially supported by grants PI14/00740, PI08/1463, PI11/00708, PI14/01731, MS15/00115, and RD12/0036/0061 and co-financed by Fondo de Investigación Sanitaria (FIS), Instituto de Salud Carlos III; Plan Nacional de I+D+i 2013–2016 and Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional FEDER “Una manera de hacer Europa” support, along with grants from the Fundación LAIR, Asociación Madrileña de Hematología y Hemoterapia (AMHH), Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC), and Fundación Mutua Madrileña (FMM). FIS supported P.E. (CPI15/00115) and J.G. (CPI11/00006).

The subject of the case report signed an informed consent document for publication.

**About the Author**

Dr. Fernández-Cruz is an internist and a consultant for hemato-oncological patients in the Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Department in Hospital Gregorio Marañón in Madrid. Dr. Kwon is a hematology specialist at the Stem Cell Transplant Unit in Hospital Gregorio Marañón in Madrid.

**References**


Address for correspondence: Ana Fernández-Cruz, Servicio de Microbiología Clínica y Enfermedades Infecciosas, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, C/ Dr. Esquerdo, 46, 28007 Madrid, Spain; email: anafcruz999@gmail.com

**Corrections**

Vol. 21, No. 8

An incorrect word in a sentence in *Escherichia coli* O157 Outbreaks in the United States, 2003–2012 (K.E. Heiman et al.) inadvertently changed the meaning. The sentence should have read, “The median annual number of outbreaks reported during 2008–2012 was higher than during 2003–2007 (45 vs. 33, p = 0.12) (Figure 1).” The article has been corrected online (https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/21/8/14-1364_article).

Vol. 23, Supplement

The name of author Melanie E. King was incorrectly listed and several items in the text were unclear in Surveillance Training for Ebola Preparedness in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, and Mali (V.M. Cáceres et al.). The article has been corrected online (https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/23/13/17-0299_article).
Inonotosis in Patient with Hematologic Malignancy

Technical Appendix

Invasive fungal infections caused by Basidiomycetes in neutropenic hematological patients*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Age, Sex</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Diagnostic technique</th>
<th>Underlying disease</th>
<th>Infection site</th>
<th>Therapy</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nenoff P</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>40F</td>
<td>Coprinus spp (Hormographiella aspergillata)</td>
<td>Histology, culture</td>
<td>Relapsed ALL</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>AmB</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>Coinfection with A. flavus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verweij PE</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>24M</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, culture</td>
<td>Lung-multiple</td>
<td>Lung multiple</td>
<td>AmB Itraconazole AmB</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>Breakthrough while on fluconazole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surmont I</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>34F</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>Relapse ALL</td>
<td>Lung abscess</td>
<td>Voriconazole+AmB</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Postmortem diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buzina W</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>9F</td>
<td>Irpex lacteus</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>NHL (lymphoblastic) ALL</td>
<td>Lung abscesses</td>
<td>Voriconazole</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Postmortem diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagrou K</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>34M</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>Lung abscesses</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>Caspofungin</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Mixed infection: first, palatal Rhizomucor variabilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuali M</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>NY (USA)</td>
<td>14F</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>AML; HSCT</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>LamB+fluconazole caspofungin</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>Breakthrough while on Posaconazole and caspofungin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conen A</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>41F</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, blood culture, PCR</td>
<td>AML; double HSCT</td>
<td>Lung nodules, eye, brain</td>
<td>Voriconazole Posaconazole Caspofungin Voriconazole Posaconazole LamB+wedge resection Voriconazole</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>GVHD Postmortem diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>63F</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>AML</td>
<td>Lung nodules</td>
<td>LamB+wedge resection Voriconazole</td>
<td>Favorable, but death from underlying disease Fatal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55M</td>
<td>Hormographiella aspergillata</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>AML; HSCT (double cord)</td>
<td>Lung nodules</td>
<td>LamB+wedge resection Voriconazole</td>
<td>Favorable, but death from underlying disease Fatal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salit RB</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Bethesda, MD, USA</td>
<td>41F</td>
<td>Volvariella volvacea</td>
<td>History, culture, PCR</td>
<td>HL; HSCT (cord)</td>
<td>Lung wedge infiltrates and CNS focal lesions</td>
<td>Voriconazole+LAm B</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>Breakthrough while on voriconazole (previous proven aspergillosis).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Age, Sex</td>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Diagnostic technique</td>
<td>Underlying disease</td>
<td>Infection site</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pang KA (9)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Strasbourg</td>
<td>25F</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, culture, PCR</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>Voriconazole, LAMB</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Breakthrough while on caspofungin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suárez F (10)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>23F</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, culture, PCR</td>
<td>Acute biphenotypic leukemia</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>Voriconazole, LAMB</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Breakthrough while on caspofungin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adrenoleukodystrophy; HSCT (cord) AML; AlloHSCT</td>
<td>Lung, spleen</td>
<td>Caspofungin LAMB</td>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>Postmortem diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bojic M (11)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>61F</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, PCR</td>
<td>Acute biphenotypic leukemia</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>Voriconazole LAMB</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toya T (12)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>23F</td>
<td><em>Schizophyllum commune</em></td>
<td>Culture, PCR</td>
<td>ALL, SCT (cord)</td>
<td>Maxillary and</td>
<td>Surgical debridement skin LAMB LAMB</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heiblig M (13)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>19M</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, PCR</td>
<td>Mitochondrial cytopathy MDS-AML; HSCT</td>
<td>Sino-orbital-</td>
<td>Surgical resection + LAMB+ Voriconazole</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corzo-León DE (14)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>52F</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Culture, PCR</td>
<td>AML; AlloHSCT SMD-EB; Cord HSCT</td>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>LAMB LAMB+caspo</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanno S (15)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>51M</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, PCR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Small intestine, lung and brain</td>
<td>Voriconazole LAMB</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lim DS (16)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1 M</td>
<td><em>Earliella scabrosa</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, PCR</td>
<td>Aplastic anemia</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Surgical resection + AmB+ Nebulized LAMB</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godet C (17)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>36M</td>
<td><em>Hormographiella aspergillata</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, PCR</td>
<td>AML, Cord HSCT</td>
<td>Lung nodule</td>
<td>Voriconazole LAMB</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernández-Cruz A (this study)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>33M</td>
<td><em>Inonotus spp</em></td>
<td>Histology, culture, PCR</td>
<td>ALL, Lung nodule, skin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Micafungin</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia; AlloHSCT, allogenic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; AmB, amphotericin B deoxicolate; AML, acute myeloblastic leukemia; HL, Hodgkin lymphoma; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplant; LAMB, liposomal amphotericin B; MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome.
References


http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11046-017-0117-9