Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis in a patient with acute myeloid leukemia

CARMEN JIMÉNEZ, JOSÉ ANTONIO CAPDEVILA,* ALBERTO HIDALGO°

Services of Hematology, *Infections Disease, °Radiology, Hospital Universitari de la Vall d’Hebron, Barcelona, Spain

We present a case of a 47-year old man with pancytopenia secondary to induction chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia, AMLSa of the FAB classification (the induction therapy was idarubicin, cytarabine, etoposide and intrathecal prophylaxis with methotrexate, cytarabine and prednisone). He developed fever with positive blood cultures for Klebsiella pneumoniae and enteroccocus and was treated with meropenem and vancomycin. After an initial afebrile period, fever reappeared on the 10th day after the end of the induction treatment and a thin-section CT scan of the thorax revealed a nodule in the upper lobe of the left lung. Amphotericin B was empirically started at a daily dose of 1 mg/kg b.w. Five days later another CT scan showed enlargement of the lung nodule. At this point treatment was changed to liposomal amphotericin at a daily dose of 5 mg/kg b.w. A fine-needle aspiration under CT guidance revealed the presence of hyphae (May-Grünwald-Giemsa technique) and the cultures grew Aspergillus spp. The patient died four days later with progressing infection and in a deep coma.

References


Correspondence: Carmen Jiménez, M.D., Service of Hematology, Hospital Universitari de la Vall d’Hebron, Pg. Vall d’Hebron 119-129, 08035 Barcelona, Spain. E-mail cjimenez@hg.vhebron.es