

Images in clinical medicine



Unusual manifestation of fungal malignant external otitis

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Received: 25 Oct 2019 - **Accepted:** 21 Nov 2019 - **Published:** 25 Aug 2020

Keywords: External otitis, malignant external otitis, fungal external otitis

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Cite this article: Mafalda da Silva Ferreira et al. Unusual manifestation of fungal malignant external otitis. Pan African Medical Journal. 2020;36(337). 10.11604/pamj.2020.36.337.20814

Available online at: <https://www.panafrican-med-journal.com//content/article/36/337/full>

Unusual manifestation of fungal malignant external otitis

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Image in medicine

Malignant external otitis (MEO) is a fatal disease of the external auditory canal and temporal bone. The infection begins as an external otitis that later spreads and turns into an osteomyelitis of the temporal bone. It has an extremely aggressive behavior and poor prognosis. It mainly affects immunocompromised men over 60 years old. Diabetes is the most common risk factor and *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* is the organism responsible for 90% of all cases. These pictures represent a case of an extremely invasive fungal MEO in a 59 years old man. It was a patient with a history of MEO on the right ear, with a poorly

controlled type II diabetes and a chronic renal insufficiency. He presented with one month complaint of severe left ear pain and discharge. In otoscopy (A) we observed otorrhea and granulation tissue at the osseocartilaginous junction. Swab culture from the ear canal showed the presence of *Aspergillus Flavus*, an uncommon organism. Technetium and gallium scans revealed an intense uptake within the left temporal bone. During the

treatment with intravenous voriconazole and vancomycin the patient developed paresis of VI nerve (B). Head MRI showed significant inflammatory soft tissue in mastoids, with an extensive inflammatory process involving the skull base (C). Cranial nerves can be damage when the infection spreads along skull base. The patient remains under antifungal treatment and with a special concern about pain relieving.

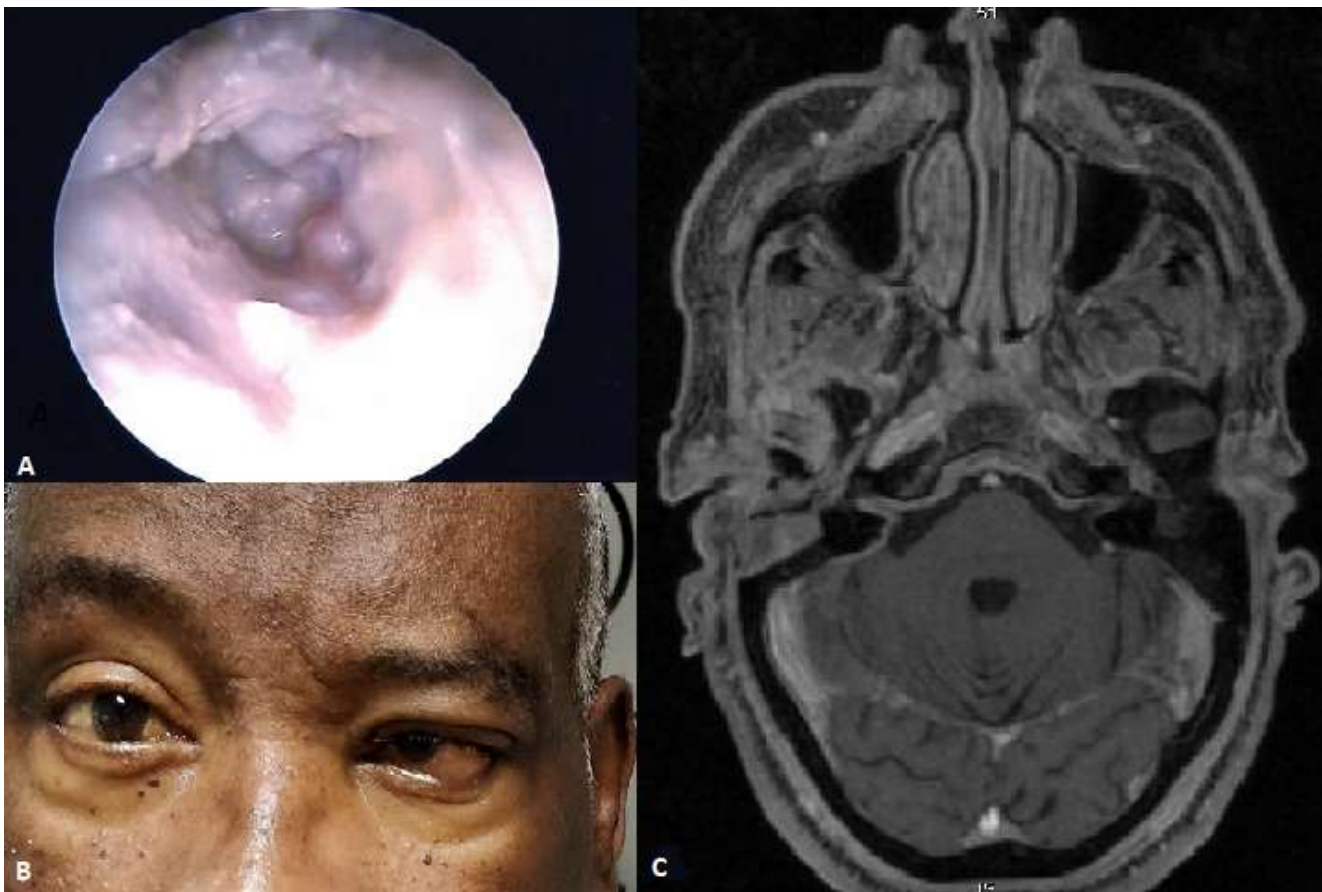


Figure 1: (A,B,C) fungal malignant external otitis