

Study of fungal infections in malignant wound : an initial prospective study at a tertiary care centre

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Abstract

Background: In recent years, there has been a global rise of fungal infections in patients with advanced cancer. Apart from *Candida*, other organisms especially non *Candida albicans* spp. (NAC) and *Aspergillus* spp., have become common which were earlier used to be an infrequent cause of fungal infections. With the objective of studying the pattern of fungal infections in malignant wounds, a prospective study was conducted in Safdarjung Hospital.

Methods: Cancer patients with clinical suspicion of fungal infection were included. Demographic details and clinical history were documented for each participant. Tissue biopsy and other relevant sample were collected and processed under all aseptic precautions. Identification of yeast, moulds

and bacteria and antifungal susceptibility were done as per CLSI Guidelines (2002, 2008).

Results

Out of the 30 patients studied, 25 (83.3%) of patients were positive for fungal culture. 56% of patients with positive fungal culture were suffering from carcinoma of the breast. *Candida* was the most common species found (72%).

Conclusion

Routine assessment, timely detection of the fungal infection and the antifungal susceptibility was crucial for the management of malignant wounds. More data is needed to obtain a clear picture.