Laryngeal Mucormycosis in a Previously Irradiated Patient

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ABSTRACT

Mucormycosis is a virulent fungal infection caused by members of the order Mucor. Shortly after his clinic visit the patient was taken to the operating room for direct laryngoscopy and biopsy. A large zone of necrotic tissue was noted extending from the anterior commissure down into the subglottis (Image 1). Biopsies revealed Mucormycosis. The results were independently confirmed by two pathologists. The patient was immediately started on a liposomal formulation of Amphotericin B.

His past medical history was significant for external beam radiation treatment of a T1N0M0 left true vocal cord squamous cell carcinoma in 1984. He was a heavy smoker for the majority of his life and at the time of his evaluation continued to smoke 1-2 ppd. He did not have any other chronic medical conditions.

An outside otolaryngologist had noted a very friable and necrotic appearance to his glottic and subglottic larynx on flexible laryngoscopy and referred him to UAB for further evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS

As Laryngeal Mucormycosis is rarely encountered a high degree of suspicion is required to diagnose it accurately and quickly.

Systemic immunocompromise is not an absolute requirement for development of this infection.

Multi-modality therapy provides the best chance of cure.

REFERENCES