Systemic mycoses

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Introduction

- Usually caused by dimorphic fungi
- Exist as yeast in the host tissue & culture at 37°C & as hyphae or mycelial form in the soil or the culture at 22-25°C

Introduction

- Acquired by inhalation
- May disseminate to CNS, bones & other internal organs
- Includes blastomycosis, histoplasmosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, cryptococcosis
- Systemic & subcutaneous mycoses named as deep mycoses

Features of dimorphic fungi

- Yeast form: In tissues & culture at 37° C
- Mycelial form: In culture at 25° to 30°C
- Appear as moulds or filaments
- Endemic to specific geographic area
- Absent in normal human flora
- Capable of causing multiple kinds of infections
- Cause systemic infection

	Disease	Causative agent
1	Candidiasis	Candida species
2	Cryptococcosis	C.neoformans
3	Histoplasmosis	H. capsulatum
4	Blastomycosis	B.dermatitidis
5	Paracoccidioido - mycosis	P.braziliensis
6	Coccidioidomycosis	C.immitis

Pathogenicity

- Primary infection is pulmonary through inhalation of conidia
- Asymptomatic or mild infections like common cold or flu in immunocompetent persons
- May progress from acute to chronic progressive diseases characterized by granlomatous lesions in lung in immunocompromised persons

Blastomyces dermatitidis

- Dimorphic fungus
- Chronic infection of the lungs which may spread to other tissues, particularly to skin, bone & genitourinary tract
- Infection confined to North American Continent, Known as North American blastomycosis
- Known as Chicago's disease

Blastomycosis

- Causative agent: Blastomyces dermatitidis
- Source of agent: soil
- Entry through inhalation of conidia or rarely through skin (trauma)
- Male: Female 4:1
- Age: 20 to 50 years
- Common in rural area farmers & tree cutters

Clinically

- Pulmonary form: Productive cough, muscle joint pain, pleuritic chest pain or asymptomatic
- Cutaneous form: Papule or nodule which breaks down to form fistula discharging purulent material
- Disseminated form: Bones, genitourinary organs through hematogenous route

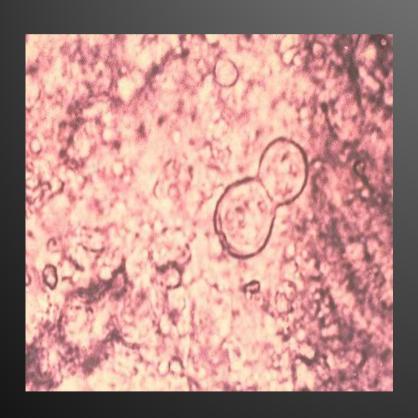
Cutaneous form of Blastomycosis

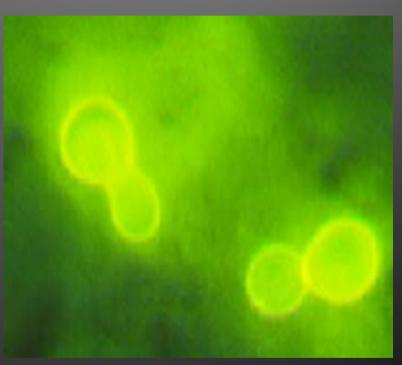


Laboratory diagnosis

- Specimen: sputum, pus, skin scraping from lesion
- Direct wet mount (KOH): Thick walled yeast cells with a single broad based bud
- Culture: At 37°C: Spherical or oval budding yeast cells (7–20μm) with thick, double contoured walls.
 At 25°C: Filamentous septate hyphae with many round to oval to pyriform conidia

Direct microscopy: KOH & Calcofluor white stain





Histoplasma

Types

- H. duboisii : Cutaneous or bone involve.
- H.capsulatum : Classical histoplasmosis in males
- H farciminosi: Epizootic lymphangitis of
- horses

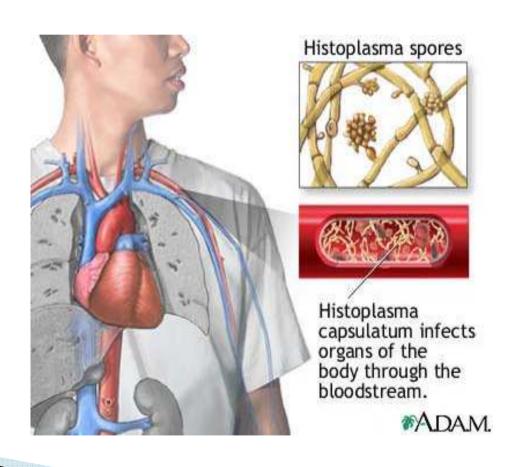
Histoplasma capsulatum

- Causing Histoplasmosis (Darling's disease, Ohio valley disease)
- World wide, most common in America
- Disease of reticuloendothelial system
- Fungus present in soil enriched with excreta of birds or bats
- Route of infection: Through inhalation of spores

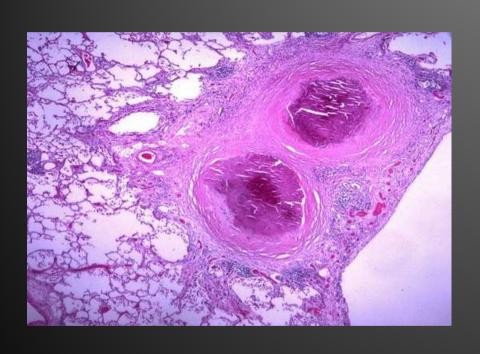
Clinically

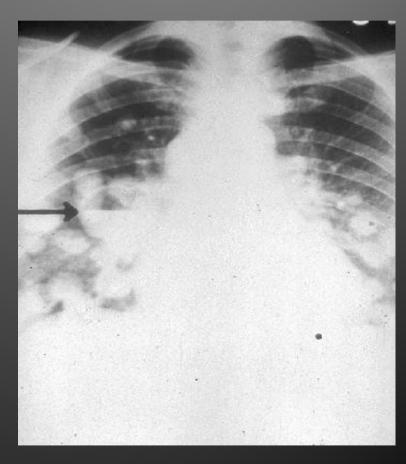
- Asymptomatic
- Some individuals develop pulmonary disease which resembles tuberculosis
- Involvement of reticuloendothelial system results in lymphadenopathy, hepatospenomegaly, fever, anaemia & high rate of fatality
- Granulomatous or ulcerative lesions on skin or mucosa

Spread: Histoplasmosis



Histoplasmosis: HPE & X-ray



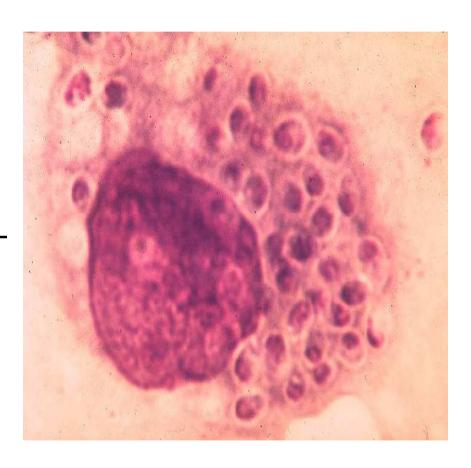


Specimen

- Sputum
- Bone marrow aspirate
- Peripheral blood
- Scraping from dermal or mucosal ulcer
- Biopsy of lymphnode or other organs
- ▶ 10% KOH exam. is not useful

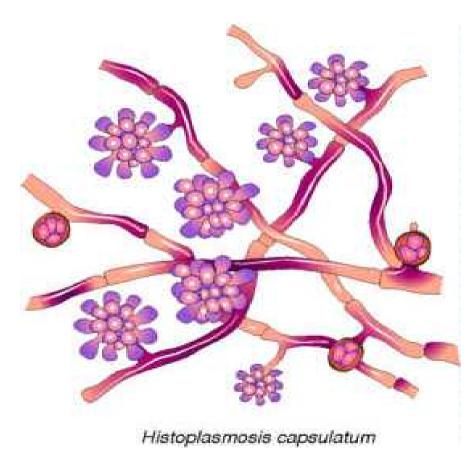
Direct examination

- Stained with Giemsa or Wright stain
- Appears as small oval yeast cell (2– 4μm in diameter) packed within cytoplasm of macrophages or monocytes



Culture on SDA or BHIA at 25°C

- Grossly: white cottony
- Micro: Septate hyphae, short conidiophore & presence of smooth walled microconidia & tuberculate macroconidia



Histoplasmin skin test

- Delayed hypersensitivity
- Similar to tuberculin test but antigen used is histoplasmin
- A positive 'histoplasmin skin test' indicates past or present infection, but does not differentiate active or past infections

	Name of fungus	Coccidioides immitis	Paracoccidioides brasiliensis
	Endemic area	South-West USA, north Mexico	Central & South America
	Source of infection	Inhalation - Arthrospores	Inhalation - Spores
	Clinically	Asymptomatic or primary pulmonary	Primary pulmonary
	Dissemination	CNS, skin, bones	Mucus memb. of mouth, nose; skin, ly.nodes

Development cycle of coccidioidomycosis

- Arthrospores in soil
- Inhalation
- Swell & develop into spherules in the body
- Enlarge & form endospores
- Rupture & release endospores
- Disseminate locally & at extrapulmonary sites

Growth phase

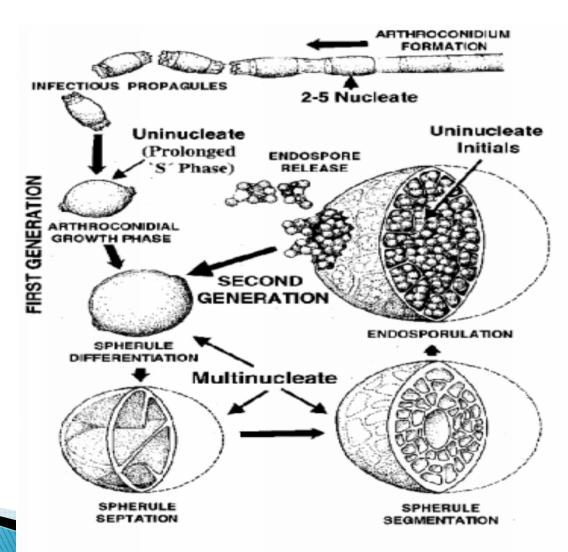


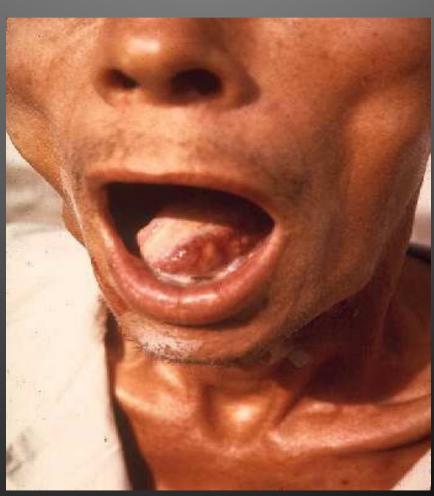
Fig. 1

Name of fungus	Coccidioides immitis	Paracoccidioides brasiliensis
Specimen	Sputum, pus, biopsy	Sputum, pus, biopsy, BAL
Direct microscopy	Mature spherules with endospores	Yeast cells with multiple buds – 'Mickey Mouse cap' appearance
Culture on SDA at 25° C for 3 wks; Mycelial form:	Thick walled arthroconidia from septate hyphae	Septate branched hyphae & Chlamydospores

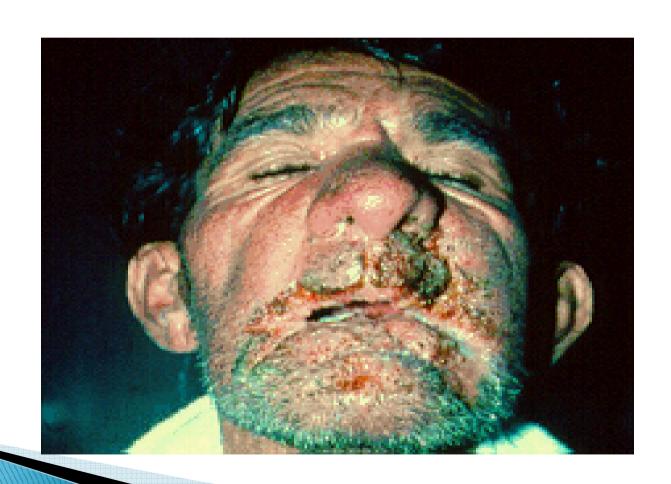
Name of fungus	Coccidioides immitis	Paracoccidioides brasiliensis
Culture on SDA at 37 ⁰	Spherule (15-75µm) with thick doubly refractile wall & filled with endospores	Yeast cells with multiple buds
Skin test	Useful for diagnosis	Limited value

Lesions: Coccidioidomycosis & Paracoccidioidomycosis

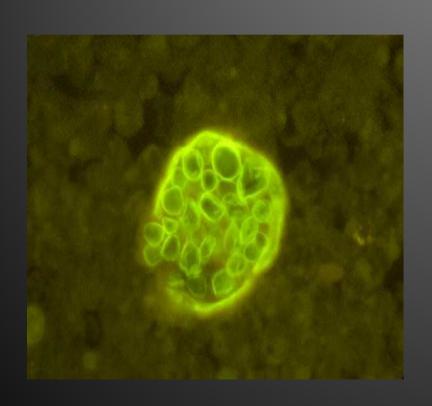


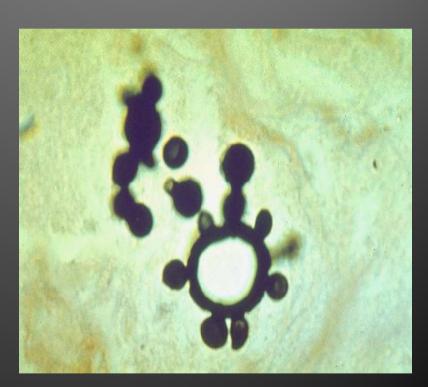


Mucocutaneous lesion of Paracoccidioidomycosis



Microscopically: C.immitis & P.brasiliensis





Summary of

- Histoplasma
- Blastomyces
- Coccidioides

Like Tuberculosis

- Inhaled, primary infection in lung
- Asymptomatic, mild, severe or chronic lung infection
- Lung granulomas, calcifications, &/or cavitation
- Can disseminate hematogenously to distant sites
- Skin test like PPD

Unlike Tuberculosis

- No person to person transmission
- Fungi with spores
- NOT acid fast bacteria

