WHAT IS MUCORMYCOSIS OR BLACK FUNGUS?

It is a fungal infection that especially affects people who are on medication for other health issues that reduces their ability to fight environmental pathogens.

Who are at risk in the current COVID situation?

01 Those with uncontrolled diabetes
02 Prolonged ICU stay
03 Irrational use of steroids
04 Comorbidities-post transplant/malignancy
05 Voriconazole therapy
Symptoms

- Pain and redness around eyes and/or nose
- Fever, headache, coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Bloody vomits
- Altered mental status

When to suspect?

- Sinusitis-nasal blockade or congestion
- Nasal discharge (blackish/bloody)
- Local pain on the cheekbone
- One-sided facial pain, numbness or swelling
- Toothache
- Blurred or double vision with pain
- Chest pain, worsening of respiratory symptoms

Dos

01 Control hyperglycemia
02 Monitor blood glucose level post-COVID-19 discharge
03 Use steroid judiciously
04 Use clean water for humidifiers during oxygen therapy
05 Use antibiotics/antifungals judiciously
06 Wear a mask if you are going outside

Don'ts

01 Miss warning signs and symptoms
02 Consider all cases with a blocked nose is due to fungus
03 Hesitate to seek tests like KOH staining, microscopy, culture, MALDI-TOF to detect fungal etiology
04 Hesitate to initiate treatment