



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

PHAEOHYPHOMYCOSIS CAUSED BY PHIALOPHORA SP. : FIRST CASE REPORT FROM INDONESIA

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Background: Phaeohyphomycosis is a fungal infection caused by dermatiaceous defined by the presence of pigmented filaments in tissues. The clinical presentations of phaeohyphomycosis are mostly superficial, like subcutaneous abscesses or nodules which usually following a trauma or skin injury.

Observation: A 54 years old male presented with a nodule on his left hand of 6 month duration. It appeared spontaneously as a small asymptomatic nodule over his back of left hand. He has history of borderline leprosy which already treated with multi drug therapy, and erythema nodosum leprosum treated with prednisone on and off. On dermatological examination, a solitary skin color nodule, well defined, over the dorsal aspect of the left hand overlying the based of the left little finger, approximately 2,5 cm in diameter, with shinny surface and there were some punctum on the nodule. The fine needle aspiration result stated that there were many inflammation cells and fungal hyphae. The patient decided to undergo excision biopsy for his nodule. The histopathological with Hematoxyllin Eosin staining revealed numerous fungal hyphae were present in the inflammatory infiltrate. Periodic Acid Schiff stain clearly demonstrated the presence of septated fungal hyphae. Cultures were obtained on Sabouraud dextrose agar, produced dark, moist, brown to black yeast-like colony, velvety, with dark-grey aerial hyphae and sporulation seen on the surface area. Microscopically, slide cultures showed branched, septated hyphae bearing fask-shaped phialides laterally, and conidias, identified as *Phialophora* sp.

Key Message: The most common reported phaeohyphomycosis is the subcutaneous form, clinically characterized by cystic granulomas, as a single asymptomatic subcutaneous nodule or as asymptomatic erythematous plaques or nodular lesions. Subcutaneous phaeohyphomycosis may be acquired by the inoculation of fungi following penetrating trauma. The treatment of subcutaneous phaeohyphomycosis is not standardized. Simple surgical excision can eradicate the localized cutaneous and subcutaneous phaeohyphomycosis.

