

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

DIMORPHIC MYCOSES

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Dimorphic fungi cause several endemic mycoses ranging from subclinical respiratory infections to life-threatening systemic disease. Dimorphic organisms typically have distinct geographic distributions and exist in two forms. These are generally found as a mold, with septate hyphae and conidia, in nature and as a yeast in tissue. Infections with dimorphic fungi are usually acquired through inhalation of the organism and can lead to pulmonary symptoms and pneumonitis. In immunocompetent patients, the infection may be subclinical and most cases resolve without therapy. Some enter a latent phase to later reemerge. In contrast, in severe cases or in immunocompromised patients, the infection may disseminate to extrapulmonary sites such as the oral and pharyngeal mucosa, skin and bone. Histoplasma, Blastomyces, Coccidioides, Paracoccidioides, Sporothrix, Talaromyces, and Emergomyces are all examples of dimorphic mycoses.





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