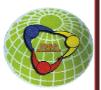




Media Scanning & Verification Cell



Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6159	25.05.2021	25.05.2021	Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	The Times of India English Newspaper 25 th May, 2021/Page No. 06
Title:	Ghaziabad doctor claims 'yellow fungus' in patient, others sceptical, Uttar Pradesh			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Ghaziabad, SSU-Uttar Pradesh			

A senior ENT surgeon's claim that he had detected the first case of 'yellow fungus' had social media awash on Monday with posts on the latest shade of an infection that has added to anxieties of Covid patients.

The medical community, however, reacted with scepticism, with several doctors saying they were not familiar with such a fungal infection.

Dr BP Tyagi, who said he has treated over 25 patients with mucormycosis (black fungus) — and seven among them white fungus as well — at his Raj Nagar clinic, Harsh ENT, told TOI he would publish his findings in medical journals after more research. He claimed to have found 'yellow fungus' in a 59-year-old patient already under treatment for black fungus.

Asked what yellow fungus was, Dr Tyagi said, "The disease's symptoms are similar to those of black fungus and white fungus, besides extreme exhaustion. Yellow

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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fungus is deadlier than the two other types and delaying its treatment can also lead to septicemia."

According to him, mucor septicus or yellow fungus generally occurs in reptiles.

"It is for the first time this infection has been detected by me. The patient had Covid and is diabetic. He came to my clinic on Sunday evening. The CT scan of the sinus did not detect the disease. It was found during nasal endoscopy. He is suffering from all three types of fungus — black, white and yellow," Dr Tyagi told TOI. "There is no mention of this disease in humans in any medical journal. As there is no history, the broad-spectrum antifungal injection, amphotericin B, has been prescribed as the medicine," he added.

Amphotericin B, of which there is an acute shortage due to a sudden surge in demand, is being used to treat black fungus. Kunwar Singh, a Sanjay Nagar resident, had recovered from Covid two months ago but was brought to the clinic to treat a swelling on the right side of his face that had developed just three days ago, his son Abhishek said. "He was not able to open his eye. He was also bleeding through the nose and during urination," said Abhishek, adding the family had been searching for amphotericin B injections in Delhi, Meerut and other places.

While Dr Tyagi's "findings" were widely shared on social media, ENT specialists cautioned against jumping to conclusions. ENT specialists Delhi NCR said they have not read or heard about the disease in their medical career so far. Dr Nishi Sharma, ENT professor and consultant at RML Hospital in Delhi, said, "I am not aware of this particular disease, so I will not comment on it." Dr VB Jindal, former president of the Indian Medical Association (Ghaziabad), and Dr Sanay Teotia, eye consultant and chief medical superintendent of District Combined Hospital, responded likewise.

Dr Amitabh Malik, chief ENT specialist at Paras Hospitals (Gurgaon), told TOI, "Naming a fungal diseasein this manner is not correct. I would neither deny nor confirm this, but I can tell you that I have never heard about it." Dr Vikramjeet Singh, senior consultant (internal medicine) at Aakash Healthcare in Delhi, said, "There is no mention of yellow fungus in humans. All such claims should be scrutinised. I have never seen such a case and the treating doctor should shed some more light on the family of this fungus and how it is affecting humans."

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