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Summary

DISSEMINATED NOCARDIOSIS IN AN IMMUNOSUPPRESSED PATIENT WITH ANTI-TNF ALPHA TREATMENT AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT: A RARE AND SERIOUS ENTITY. A CASE REPORT IN WESTERN MEXICO

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A 25-year-old man with ulcerative colitis on infliximab developed disseminated nocardiosis with pulmonary and cerebellar abscesses requiring surgical intervention and prolonged antimicrobial therapy.

KEY POINTS

- The patient had been on infliximab 5mg/kg since 2019 for ulcerative colitis when he presented in September 2021 with fever, dyspnea, and systemic inflammatory response syndrome.
- Imaging revealed a pulmonary nodule in the right middle lobe and cerebellar abscesses with hydrocephalus; Nocardia farcinica and Nocardia spp. were isolated from lung and brain specimens.
- Treatment included right middle lobectomy, ventriculoperitoneal shunt placement, surgical decompression, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole therapy continued until December 2021 with clinical improvement and no neurological or respiratory sequelae.
- Anti-TNF therapy was discontinued while mesalazine, steroid, and azathioprine were continued to maintain IBD remission.
- The authors note that only 11 cases of nocardiosis related to anti-TNF therapy have been reported in the literature, and that high clinical suspicion is needed in immunosuppressed IBD patients.

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