

DISSEMINATED NOCARDIOSIS INFECTION IN A PATIENT AFFECTED BY ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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A 72-year-old man with ulcerative colitis on multiple immunosuppressants developed disseminated *Nocardia farcinica* infection with systemic, pulmonary, and cerebral involvement that resolved after stopping immunosuppression and initiating combination antibiotic therapy.

KEY POINTS

- The patient was treated with four concurrent immunosuppressants (Infliximab 5 mg/kg, Prednisone 25 mg, Budesonide 9 mg/day, Azathioprine 100 mg/day) for three months prior to presentation with diarrhea, fever, and severe asthenia.
- Blood cultures identified *Nocardia farcinica*, and imaging revealed splenic, hepatic, pulmonary, and encephalic lesions indicating disseminated nocardiosis; the patient also developed cytomegalovirus systemic infection, adrenocortical insufficiency, and seizures.
- Immunosuppressants were stopped except Methylprednisolone 10 mg/day, and treatment with Imipenem, Amikacin, and Trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole plus anticonvulsants achieved clinical remission and radiological improvement within six months.
- The authors note that simultaneous administration of multiple immunosuppressants can increase risk of life-threatening opportunistic infections and that such infections limit treatment options for the underlying ulcerative colitis.

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