

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (A) DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

HLA 485/2021/13

Dated Dispur, the 08th June, 2021

SOP for Prevention of Mucormycosis in the state of Assam

Whereas some suspected cases of MUCOR MYCOSIS (Black fungus) have been detected in the state; and

Whereas a large number of similar cases have been reported from other parts of the country; and

Whereas there is a likelihood of increase in number of such cases in the near future;

Therefore, in order to prevent such cases of MUCOR MYCOSIS (Black fungus) in COVID patients, the **Standard Operating Procedure for Prevention of Mucormycosis in the state of Assam** is notified with immediate effect in order to bring awareness amongst the people for steps to be taken for its prevention and to contain the further spread of the disease.

A. Preventive strategies:

1. Early identification of COVID/Non COVID patients at risk for Mucormycosis including patients with Uncontrolled Diabetes Mellitus (specially having Diabetic Ketoacidosis), Neutropenic Patients, patients with history of frequent blood transfusion(may lead to increase free iron in blood), any immuno-supressant state, and those with long standing chronic issues including kidney diseases and subsequent follow up must be ensured.
2. Injudicious use of Steroids and Broad Spectrum Antibiotics / prophylactic Antifungal particularly Voriconazole must be avoided at all costs.
3. Possible Source of Mucormycetes in the hospital environment like Damp wall and floor, AC filters, Old food materials, Any organic materials, Soiled and contaminated linens including bandage etc, Soiled and contaminated mask, Equipments and devices used for patient care, Contaminated oxygen Cylinder and its accessories, Humidifiers, Leakage in water pipes et should be specifically checked frequently to avoid any occurrence of mucormycosis.
4. Accordingly, the following actions must be taken strictly in all health institutions:
 - a. Regular cleaning and wet mopping of ICU, wards and hospital premises at least two times a day.
 - b. No food materials should be kept inside the hospital premises for more than one hour.
 - c. Hospital environment should be free of all organic materials.
 - d. Regular cleaning and changing of equipment and devices.
 - e. AC filters has to be cleaned at least monthly in the ICU
 - f. Oxygen cylinders including accessories have to be cleaned before taking into hospital premises.




- g. Daily decontaminate delivery tubes and masks
- h. Daily disinfect and refill humidifier. Humidifier bottles must be changed once in a week for the same patient and in between patients. Only STERILE water is to be used in the humidifiers.
- i. Humidifier bottle must be cleaned with mild detergent and hot water using small brush and dry.
- j. Weekly cleaning of cylinder, valver and flowmeter.
- k. Nasal canula to be changed in 2-4 weeks.

B. Patient's care:

1. There should be a dedicated ward for Mucormycosis patients. A separate waste disposal mechanism has to be in place.
2. A multi-specialty team that includes specialist from Oro-Facial -maxillary, ENT, Neurosurgey, Ophtthalamology and plastic surgery should be ready for immediate surgery as debridement of infected tissue is the only confirmatory treatment.
3. All high risk patients who had steroid treatment should be subjected to baseline Neutrophil count, and then every third day until discharge. In case Count less than normal, they should be screened for any fungal infections.
4. The use of prophylactic antifungal particularly Voriconazole has to be restricted.
5. The use of Broad Spectrum Antibiotic has to restricted and judiciously administered.

This order shall come in to force with immediate effect.


Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Health & Family Welfare Department

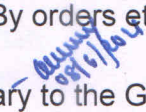
Memo No. HLA 485/2021/13-A

Dated Dispur, the 08th June, 2021

Copy to:

1. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam
2. The CEO, ASDMA
3. The Director of Health Services, Assam, Hengerabari, Guwahati-36
4. The Director of Health Services (FW) , Assam, Hengerabari, Guwahati-36
5. The Director of Medical Education, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22
6. The Director, DIPR
7. The Principal cum Chief Superintendent, all Medical College & Hospitals, Assam
8. All Joint Directors, Assam for wide circulation
9. S.O to the Chief Secretary, Assam
10. PPS to the Hon'ble Chief Minsiter, Assam
11. P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam
12. P.S. to the Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam
13. Office Copy

By orders etc.


Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Health & FW Department