

HISTOPLASMOSIS AND PENICILLIOSIS AMONG HIV-INFECTED THAI PATIENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW

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Abstract. Histoplasmosis and penicilliosis are fungal infections with similar clinical presentation and laboratory findings that were reported mainly in the era prior to highly active antiretroviral therapy. We conducted a retrospective review at two hospitals in Central Thailand of the medical records of HIV-positive patients with microbiologic evidence of histoplasmosis or penicilliosis between January 2003 to September 2007 when antiretrovirals became widely available in Thailand. Fifty patients met inclusion criteria; 36 had histoplasmosis, and 14 had penicilliosis. Symptoms and laboratory findings on presentation were similar between the two infections except for a greater incidence of tachypnea and neutropenia among patients with histoplasmosis (both $p < 0.05$). For histoplasmosis, blood culture had a significantly lower yield for detecting infection compared to tissue microscopic examination highlighting the importance of obtaining tissue for diagnosis ($p < 0.05$).

Keywords: histoplasmosis, penicilliosis, HIV infected patients, review

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