



Mucormycosis

Why in News

A number of [Covid-19](#) patients are developing a **serious fungal infection** known as **Mucormycosis** also called **black fungus**.

Key Points

▪ Mucormycosis:

- It is a serious but rare fungal infection **caused by a group of molds called [mucormycetes](#)**, which is abundant in the environment.
- It **mainly affects people** who have **health problems** or **take medicines** that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.
- The **types of Mucormycosis** are: Rhinocerebral (Sinus and Brain), Pulmonary (Lung), Gastrointestinal, Cutaneous (Skin), and disseminated Mucormycosis.

▪ Transmission:

- It **occurs through** inhalation, inoculation, or ingestion of spores from the environment.
- Mucormycosis **does not spread between people or between people and animals**.

▪ Symptoms:

- These include pain and redness around eyes and/or nose, fever, headache, coughing, shortness of breath, bloody vomits, and altered mental status.
- Warning signs can include toothache, loosening of teeth, blurred or double vision with pain.

▪ Prevention:

- Avoiding areas with a lot of dust like construction or excavation sites, avoiding direct contact with water-damaged buildings and flood water after hurricanes and natural disasters and avoiding activities that involve close contact to soil.

▪ Treatment:

- Mucormycosis needs to be treated with **prescription antifungal medicine**.
- In some cases, it can **require surgery**.

[Source: IE](#)