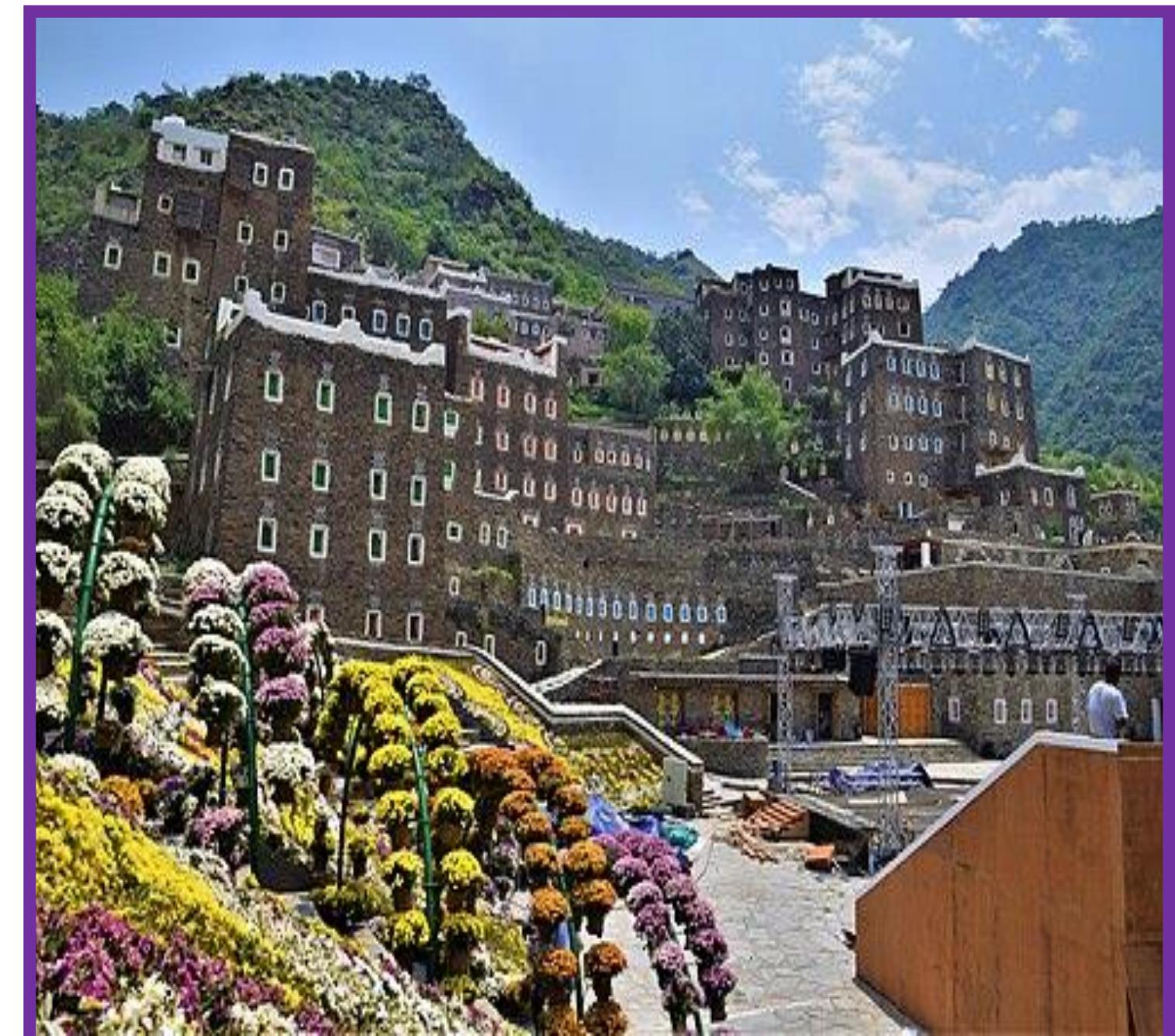


Case Series of Adult and Pediatric Basidiobolomycosis in Saudi Arabia: An Emerging Rare Disease

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26th annual ECRS conference
27-29/08/2025



Rijal Almaa, Asir province, Southern region, Saudi Arabia

Basidiobolomycosis: A Rare Fungal Infection

- Basidiobolomycosis is a rare, invasive fungal infection caused by *Basidiobolus ranarum* with high mortality rates.
- Unlike other fungal infections, it affects immunocompetent patients
- It is primarily found in tropical areas of Africa, USA, Southern Saudi Arabia, and Southeast Asia.
- The infection commonly affects the gastrointestinal tract and rarely presents with systemic involvement





Study Methodology

Patient Records

- 15 patients (11 adults, 4 pediatrics)
- Age Range: 1–70 years (mean: 27.4 years)
- Gender: 80% male, 20% female
- January 2010 to February 2023

Geographic Distribution

- Patients from Western and Southern regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Data Collection

- Cases collected in two tertiary hospitals with detailed clinical, radiological, histopathological, and treatment data.

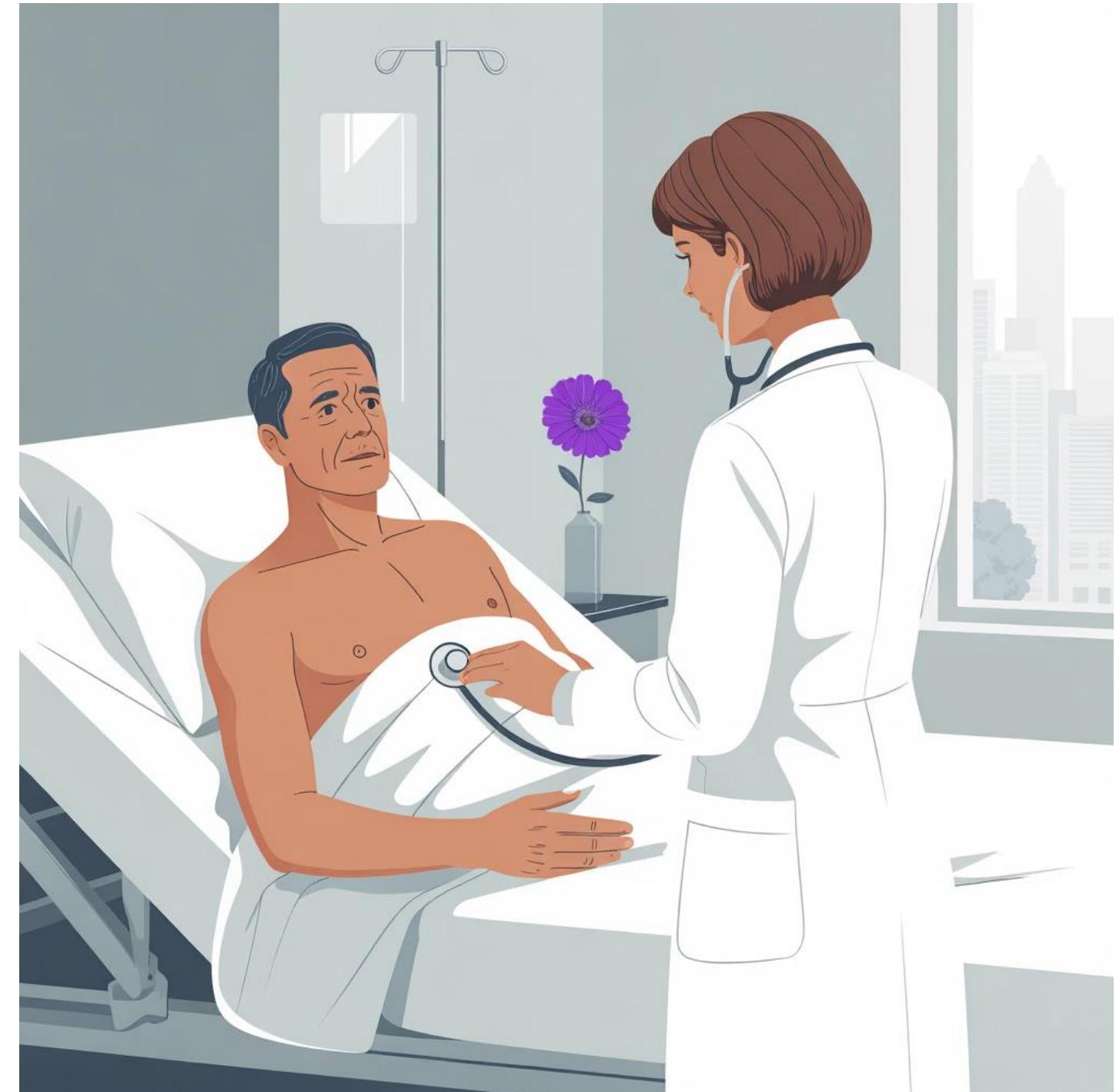
Clinical Presentation

Gastrointestinal Basidiobolomycosis (GIB)

- 14 patients (93.3%) presented with GIB
- Primary symptoms: abdominal pain, fever, nausea, vomiting
- Additional symptoms: bloody diarrhea, weight loss
- 7 cases with abdominal distention or palpable masses
- 1 case with obstructive jaundice

Orbital Infection

- 1 patient (6.6%) presented with orbital infection with periorbital swelling, hotness, redness, and decreased visual acuity



Diagnostic Workup



Laboratory Tests

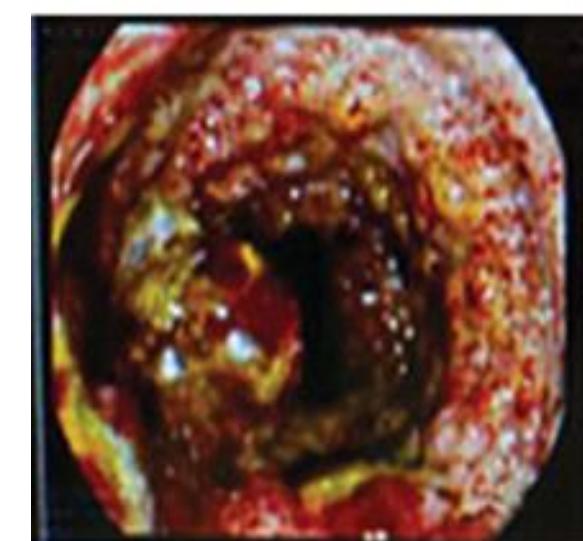
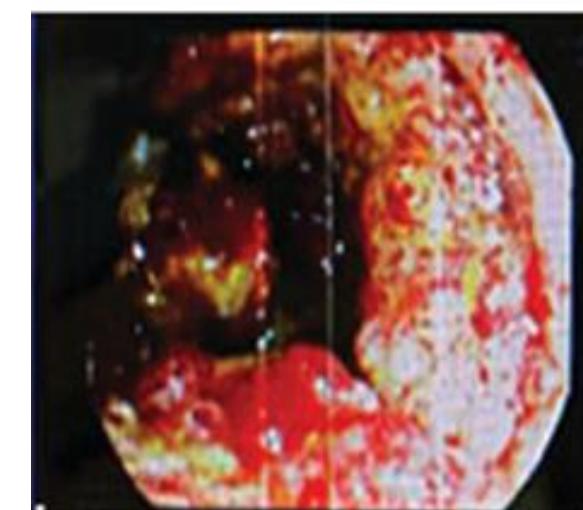
High leukocytosis, Eosinophilia, Low Hemoglobin, Thrombocytosis, and high CRP.

CT Scan Findings

Fungating mass with severe bowel wall thickening, luminal narrowing, local infiltration to adjacent organs, diffuse mesenteric fat stranding, and engorged vessels mimicking malignancy.

Colonoscopy Results

Severely inflamed mucosa with extensive cobblestone-like lesions, bleeding on touch, intraluminal narrowing mimicking IBD and/or malignancy

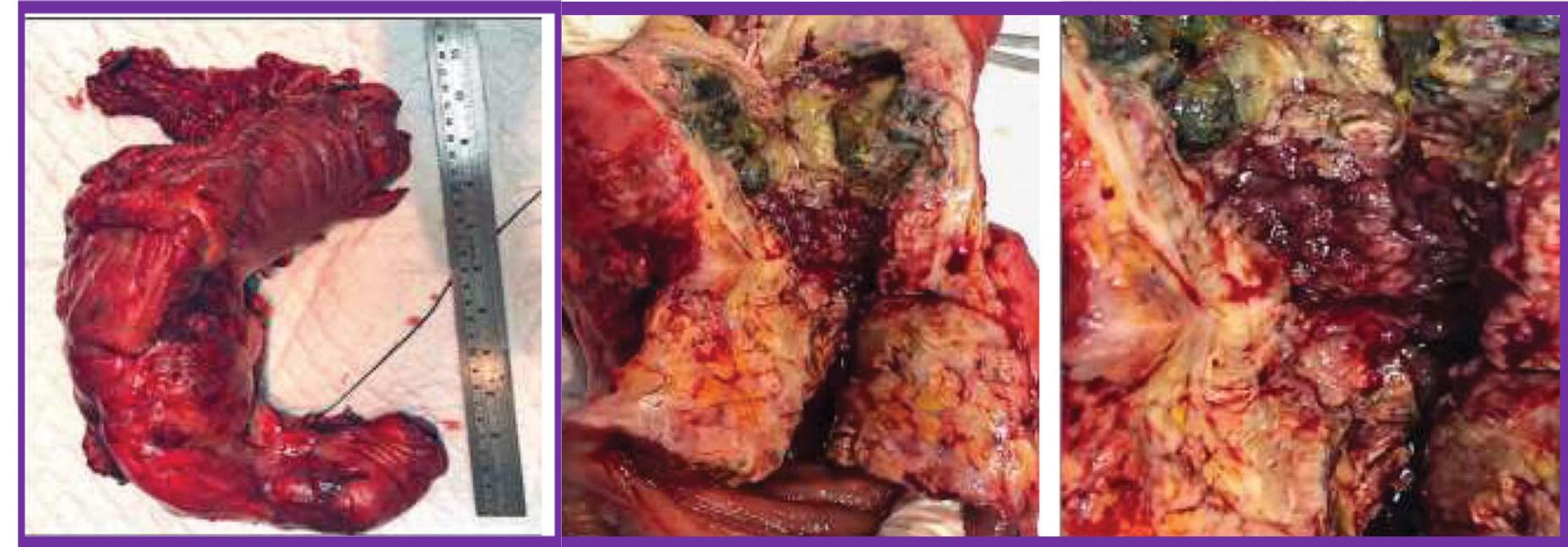


Definitive Diagnosis

Histopathology

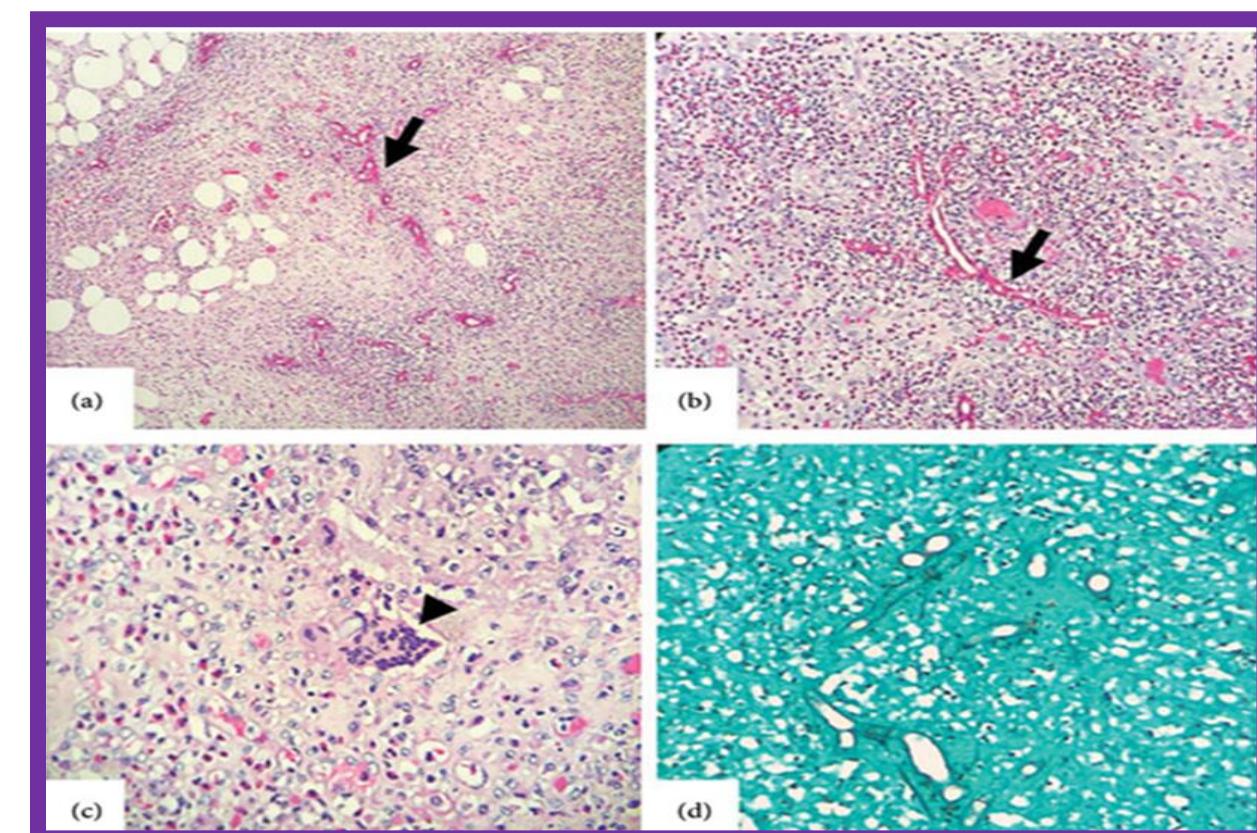
- Macroscopic Features :

A cut surface of the colon showed a sever wall thickening cobblestone appearance

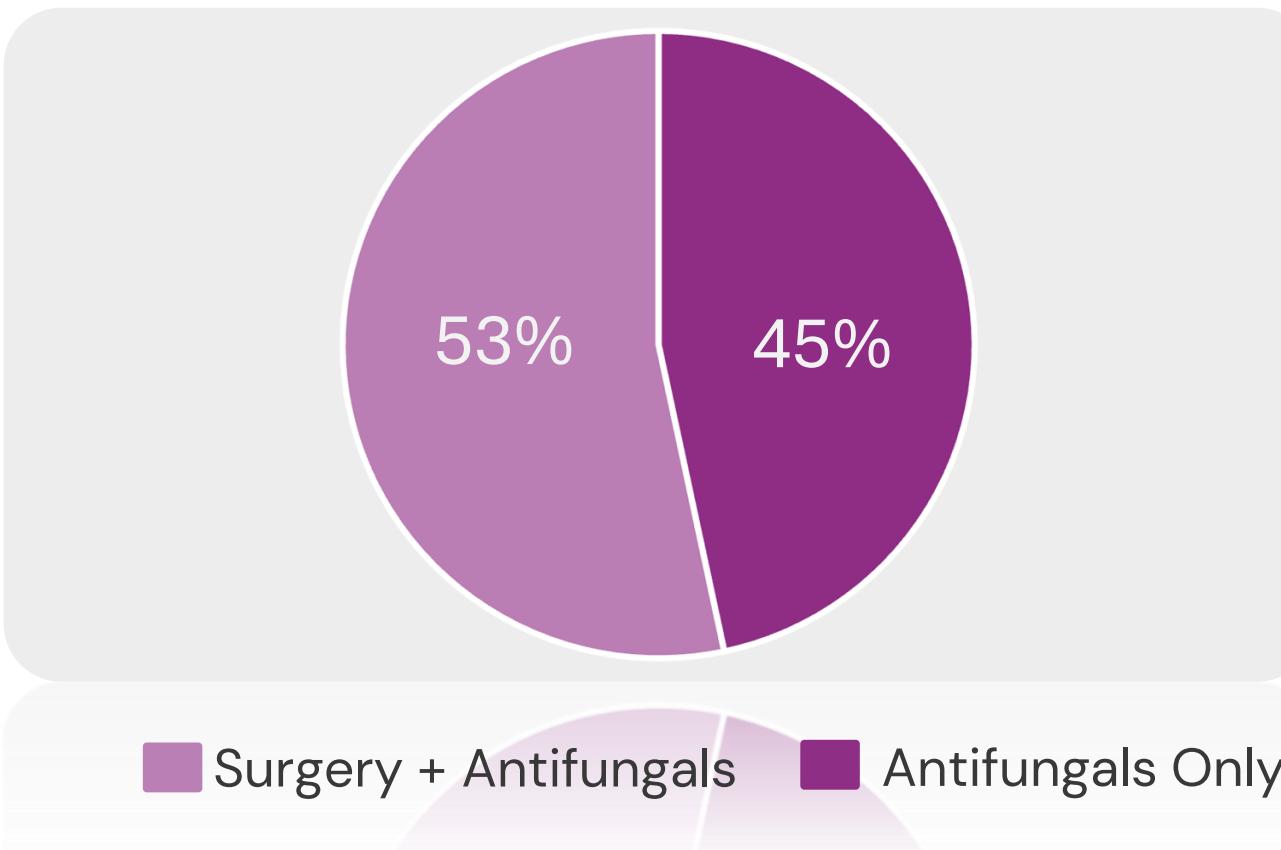


- Microscopic Features :

Presence of the **Splendore–Hoepli phenomenon** a diagnostic hallmark of the infection



Treatment Approaches and Outcomes



Treatment

- Surgical resection followed by antifungal therapy
- Antifungal treatment alone (Voriconazole or Itraconazole)
- Duration : 6 months -26 months

Patient Outcomes

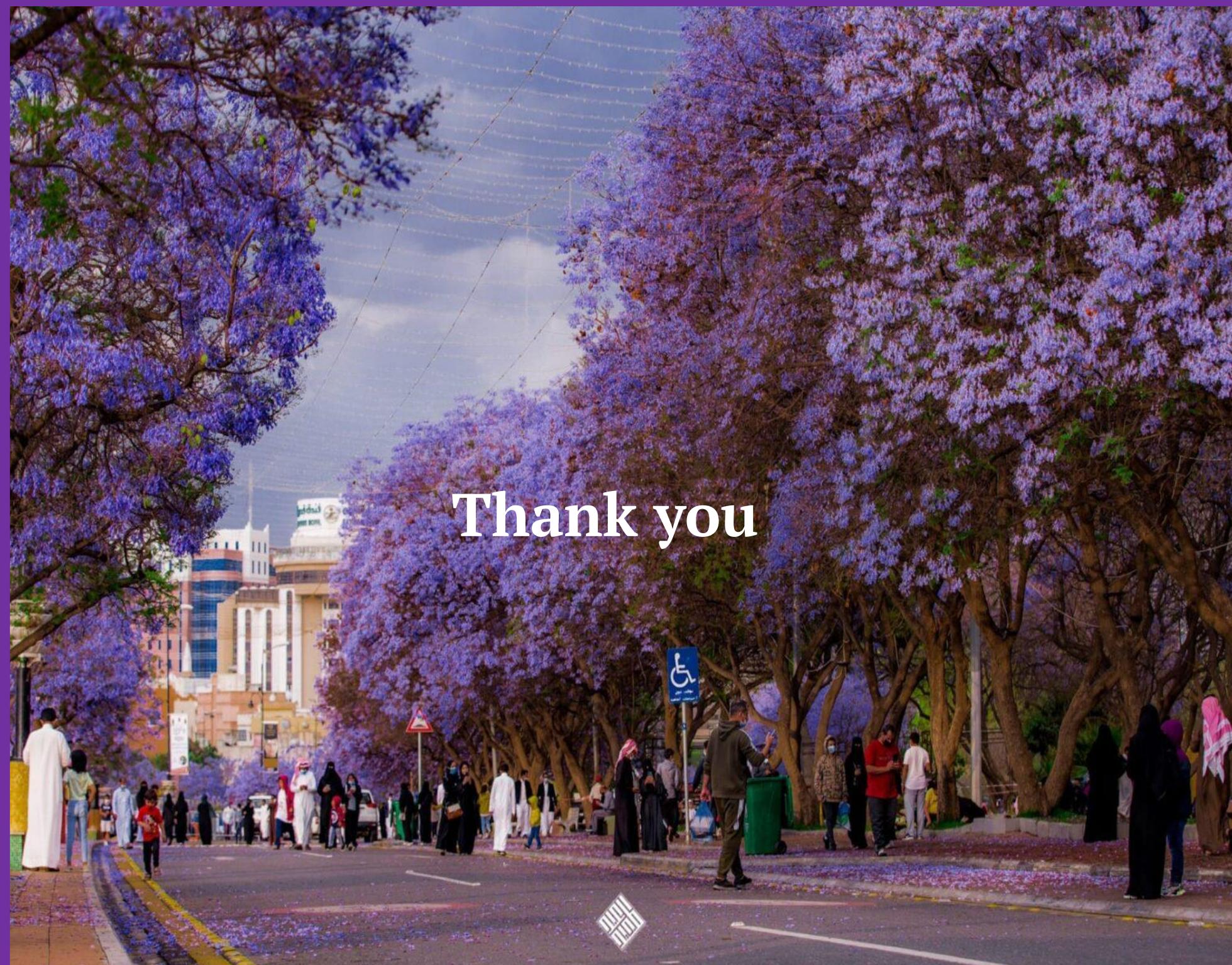
- 10 patients: Good clinical response, completed treatment coarse
- 1 patient: Slight improvement, ongoing treatment
- 4 patients: Reported deaths



Conclusions

 This represents one of the largest CASE SEIRES of basidiobolomycosis collected to date in Saudia Arabia.

- Gastrointestinal basidiobolomycosis (GIB) is often misdiagnosed as cancer or inflammatory bowel disease
- High index of suspicion in the presence of an abdominal mass associated with high Eosinophilia
- Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are crucial for favorable outcomes in basidiobolomycosis
- Medical treatment with **Azol** group is efficient therapy
- Surgical intervention is indicated for those with obstruction or perforation



Thank you

Abha Jacaranda Trees Blooms