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Authors' Reply

Dear Editor,

The case report of disseminated histoplasmosis in a patient with AIDS was published with the idea of increasing awareness of this condition and we are happy with the response we have received. Acute disseminated histoplasmosis is considered an AIDS indicator disease and yet reports from this country are very few. This is in spite of the fact that India is one of the major foci of the AIDS pandemic. One of the reasons for this as aptly brought out by Goswami *et al.*¹ is that *Histoplasma* culture is difficult unless the appropriate sample is collected and there is a high index of suspicion by the microbiologist. Though the disease is more commonly reported from the Eastern parts of India, it is by no means restricted to these parts of the country as amply demonstrated by the article by Subramaniam *et al.*² and an earlier review by Randhawa *et al.*³ Increased travel within the country has made the prevalence of the disease more widespread than it was previously believed to be and is at present still under-reported.

Though our culture showed abundant microconidia, the picture published with the article attempted to demonstrate the macroconidia as these are more characteristic of the organism. The photograph also shows many macroconidia without the characteristic tubercles and one in which these tubercles are just appearing. This has been aptly brought out in the comments by Goswami *et al.*,¹ who have described that typical macroconidia may sometime appear late and most of

these may be initially without tuberculated processes. An arrow was placed in the photograph pointing to the yeast phase of the organism.

By the time this article was submitted for publication, the series of Subramaniam *et al.*² mentioned above had not been published. However, in spite of an extensive review of available literature, we missed the single culture positive case in the study by Goswami *et al.*¹ Therefore, the credit for the first culture of *Histoplasma* from a patient with disseminated histoplasmosis in an AIDS patient must go to them.

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