



الحمد لله

Ali Amanati

Sub-specialty in pediatric infectious diseases

Assistant professor, Departments of Pediatrics

Faculty member of Professor Alborzi Clinical Microbiology Research Center (PACMRC)

Head of Infection Control Unit, Amir Oncology Hospital

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS), Shiraz, Iran

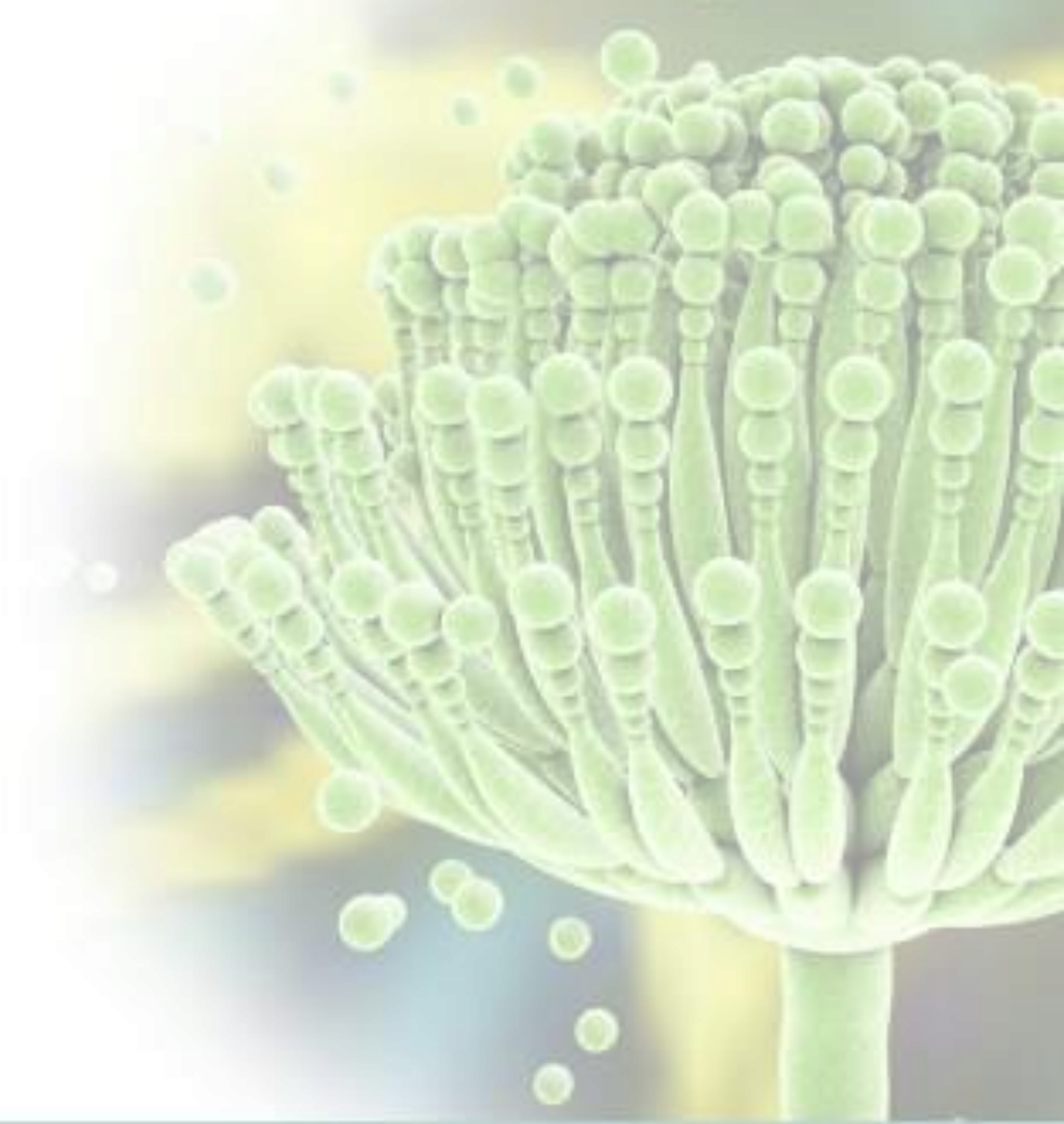
DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION, AND
TREATMENT OF INVASIVE FUNGAL DISEASES IN
PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS

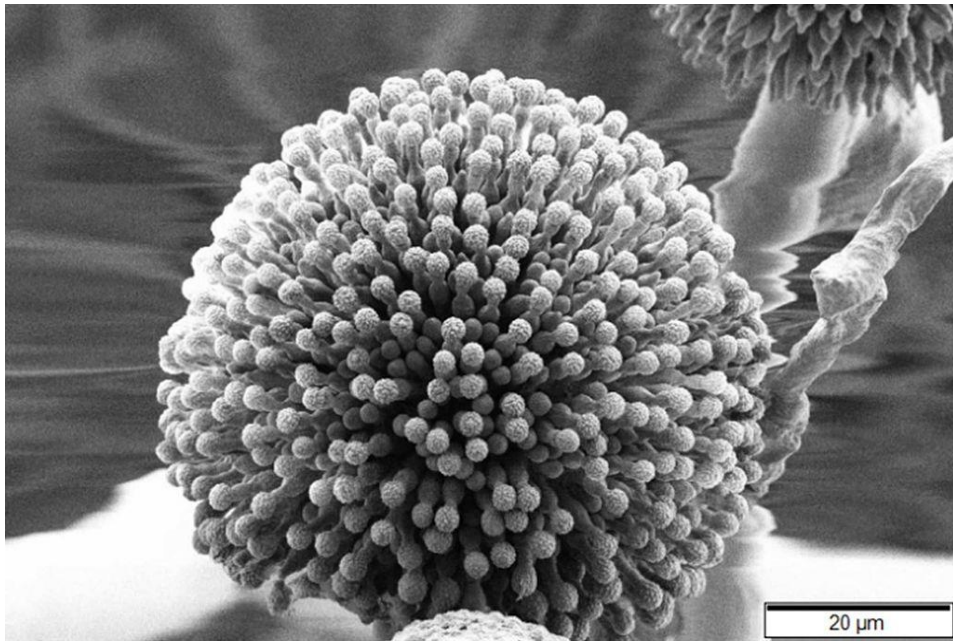
DIFFERENT TYPES OF *Aspergillus*

- *Aspergillus fumigatus*
- *Aspergillus niger*
- *Aspergillus flavus*
- *Aspergillus terreus*



Aspergillus fumigatus





Aspergillus niger





Aspergillus flavus



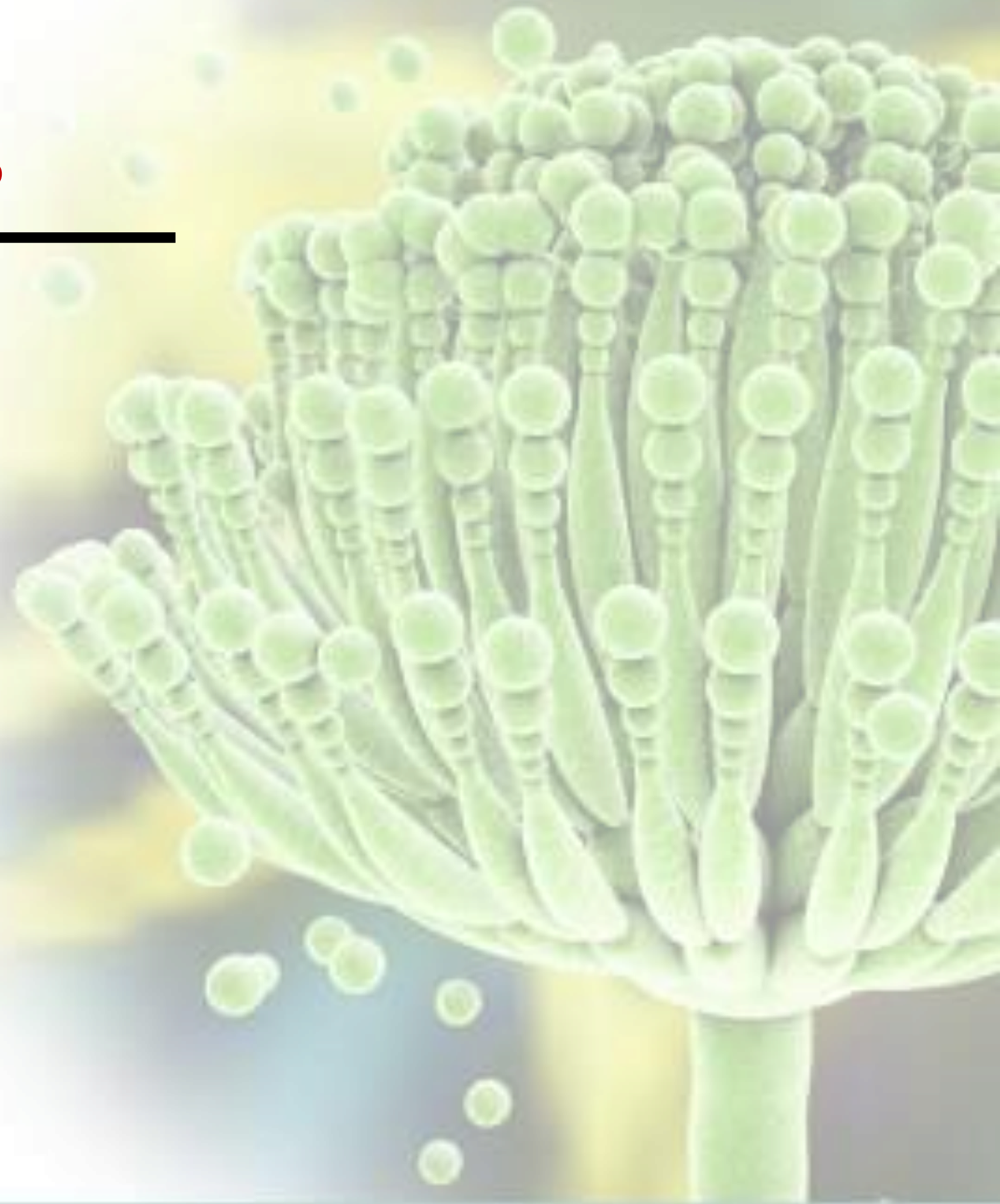


Aspergillus terreus



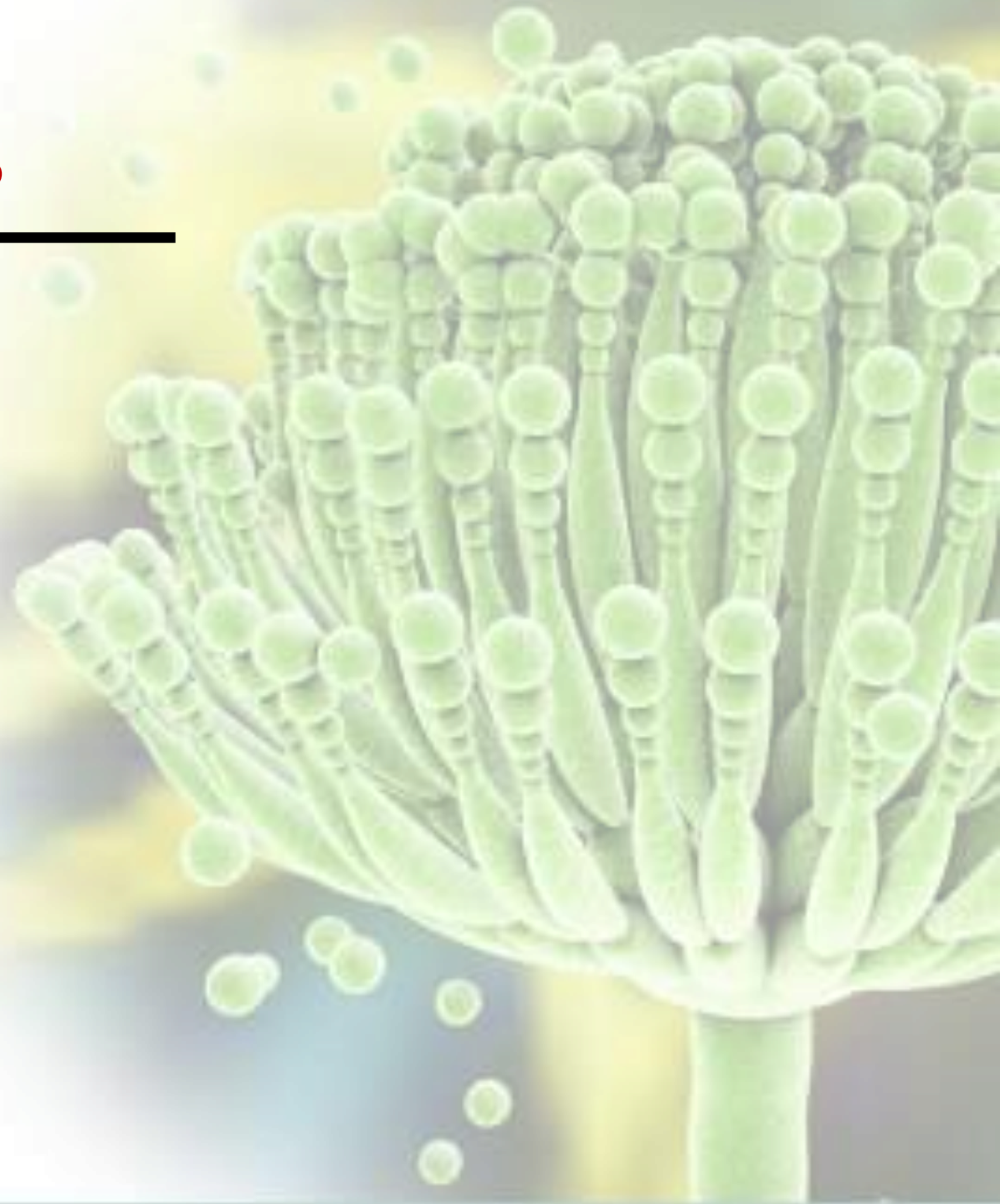
Sources of Aspergillosis

- Aspergillus lives in the environment
- Aspergillus, the mold (a type of fungus) that causes aspergillosis, is very common both indoors and outdoors, so most people breathe in fungal spores every day



Sources of Aspergillosis

- Soil
- Plants and in decaying plant matter
- Household dust
- Building materials
- Spices & some food items



Invasive Aspergillosis

- A disease that usually affects people with immune system problems
- The fungus invades and damages tissues in the body
- Most commonly affects the lungs, but can also cause infection in many other organs & can spread throughout the body

Mode of Transmission

- Inhalation of *Aspergillus* spores (i.e., in a very dusty environment) can lead to infection
- Studies have shown that invasive aspergillosis can occur during building renovation or construction
- Outbreaks of *Aspergillus* skin infections have been traced to contaminated biomedical devices

Protective environment

American Journal of Hematology 66:257–262 (2001)

Invasive Pulmonary Aspergillosis in Neutropenic Patients During Hospital Construction: Before and After Chemoprophylaxis and Institution of HEPA Filters

Period 1 included **4 months**, during which adult patients with AL were treated with intensive chemotherapy while housed in a regular ward without any form of *Aspergillus* prophylaxis

Period 2 covered the **18 months** thereafter, during which adult patients with AL were treated with intensive chemotherapy while housed in a regular ward but received chemoprophylaxis with IV continuous low-dose (20 mg/day) AB starting with chemotherapy and until resolution of neutropenia

Period 3 included **36 months**,
AL patients were hospitalized and treated in a regular ward (group 3-a)
AL patients were hospitalized and treated in a new ward (group 3-b)

Incidence of Invasive Pulmonary Aspergillosis (IPA) in Different Periods and Groups in Acute Leukemia (AL) Patients According to Length of Neutropic Episodes (NE)

		Patients with IPA		Patients without IPA		<i>P</i>
		No. (%) of patients	Median (range) length of NE (days)	No. (%) of patients	Median (range) length of NE (days)	
Period 1	Group 1	6 (50)	20 (12–42)	6 (50)	12 (7–22)	0.0029 ^a
Period 2	Group 2	12 (43) <i>P</i> = 0.95 ^e	22 (15–30)	16 (57)	13 (5–40)	0.0001 ^b
Period 3	Group 3-a	13 (29) <i>P</i> = 0.19 ^f	21 (7–120)	32 (71)	13 (5–40)	0.001 ^c
	Group 3-b	0 <i>P</i> = 0.0003 ^g	–	26 (100)	15 (7–42)	0.65 ^d

^a*P* for comparing median length of NE between patients with IPA and those without in group 1.

^b*P* for comparing median length of NE between patients with IPA and those without in group 2.

^c*P* for comparing median length of NE between patients with IPA and those without in group 3-a.

^d*P* for comparing median length of NE between patients in group 3-a and group 3-b.

^e*P* for the difference in IPA incidence between group 1 and group 2.

^f*P* for the difference in IPA incidence between group 1 and group 3-a.

^g*P* for the difference in IPA incidence between group 1 and group 3-b.

Clinical signs and symptoms

Invasive Pulmonary
Aspergillosis (IPA)

- The clinical manifestations early in the course of disease are often muted because of inadequate inflammatory responses. Over time, as IPA progresses, the clinical manifestations evolve and become more pronounced

Clinical signs and symptoms

- Many of the clinical manifestations of IPA are not specific for IPA and may be present in a variety of other infectious syndromes

Clinical signs and symptoms

- Fever (85%)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain (60%)
- Hemoptysis (40%)

Clinical signs and symptoms

- IPA is rarely the cause of fever early in the course of neutropenia. More commonly, IPA is a cause of persistent or recurrent fever later during neutropenia. Onset of IPA most frequently occurs after **2 weeks** of neutropenia, substantially later than most bacterial infections

Clinical signs and symptoms

- Cough is a frequent symptom
- Dyspnea and sputum production are variable accompaniments
- More specific symptoms are hemoptysis and pleuritic pain (compare with bacterial pneumonia)

Clinical signs and symptoms

- Signs of pulmonary consolidation on auscultation, especially rales
- A pleural friction rub is a more specific sign although present only in a minority of cases

HELPFUL CLUES

- The presence of certain individual findings, certain combinations of factors, and the duration of some factors are more likely to be found in patients with IPA than in patients without IPA
- Patients with IPA had a longer duration of neutropenia, more febrile days, more febrile episodes without an etiology established, and more febrile days on antibiotics



Clinical criteria characteristic of *Aspergillus* pneumonia in neutropenic patients with acute leukemia*

Elevated temperature

Neutropenic days > 30

Two or more febrile episodes without a source

Fourteen or more febrile days without a source

Nineteen or more days of fever during antibiotic therapy

Rales in the absence of volume overload

Nasal eschar, ulcer, or discharge plus epistaxis plus sinus tenderness

Pleuritic chest pain

Onset of pulmonary infiltrate after 14th day

Multi-lobed pulmonary infiltrate on radiography

Cavity or nodules on chest radiography

* The presence of four or more of the individual factors was found to be present in patients with IPA

Clinical and radiographic findings likely to be found early and later during invasive pulmonary aspergillosis

	Early IPA	Advanced IPA
Likely clinical findings	Fever	Fever Cough Dyspnoea Sputum Haemoptysis Pleuritic pain Pleural friction rub
Likely radiographic findings	Macronodule(s) Halo sign	“Non-specific” nodular/localised infiltrates, often multi-lobar Air crescent sign

Incubation Period

- Incubation time varies depending on host factors & exposure characteristics

Defining invasive fungal disease

Defining invasive fungal disease

Host
factor

Neutropenia

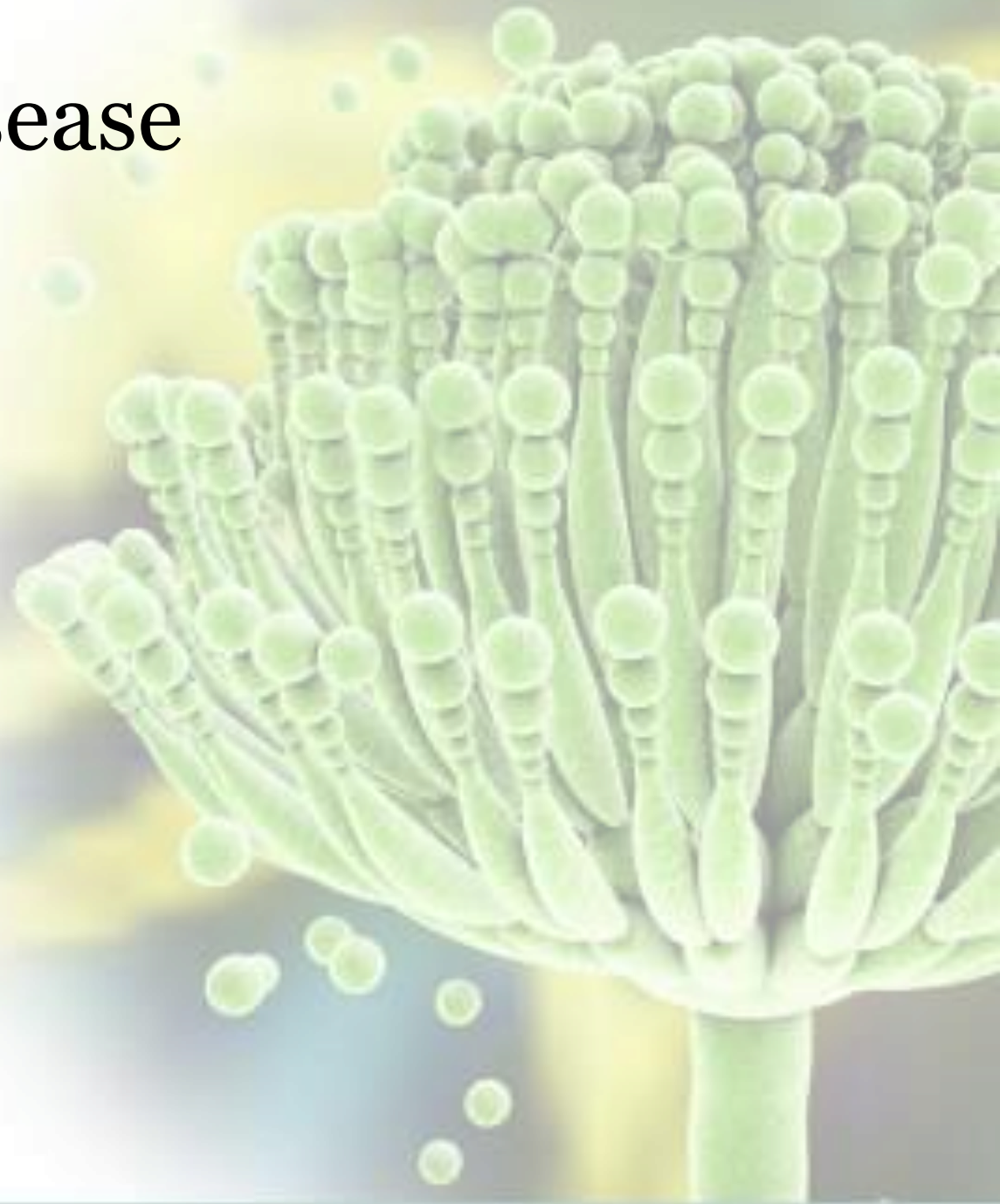
Corticosteroids

Allogeneic HSCT recipient

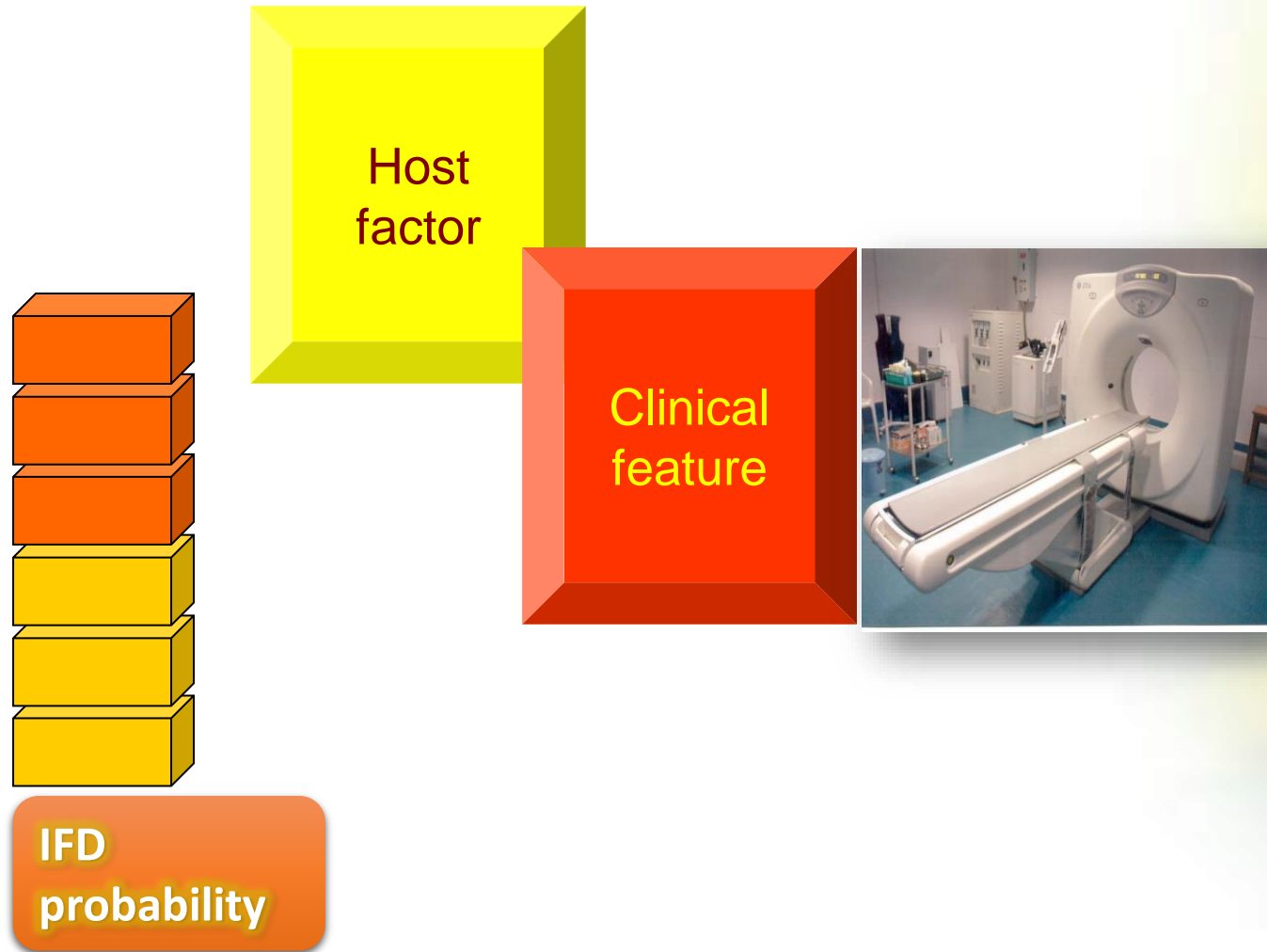
T-cell immune suppressants

Inherited severe immunodeficiency

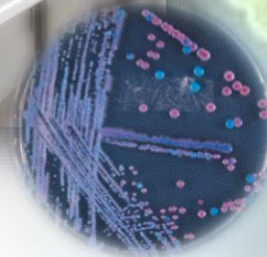
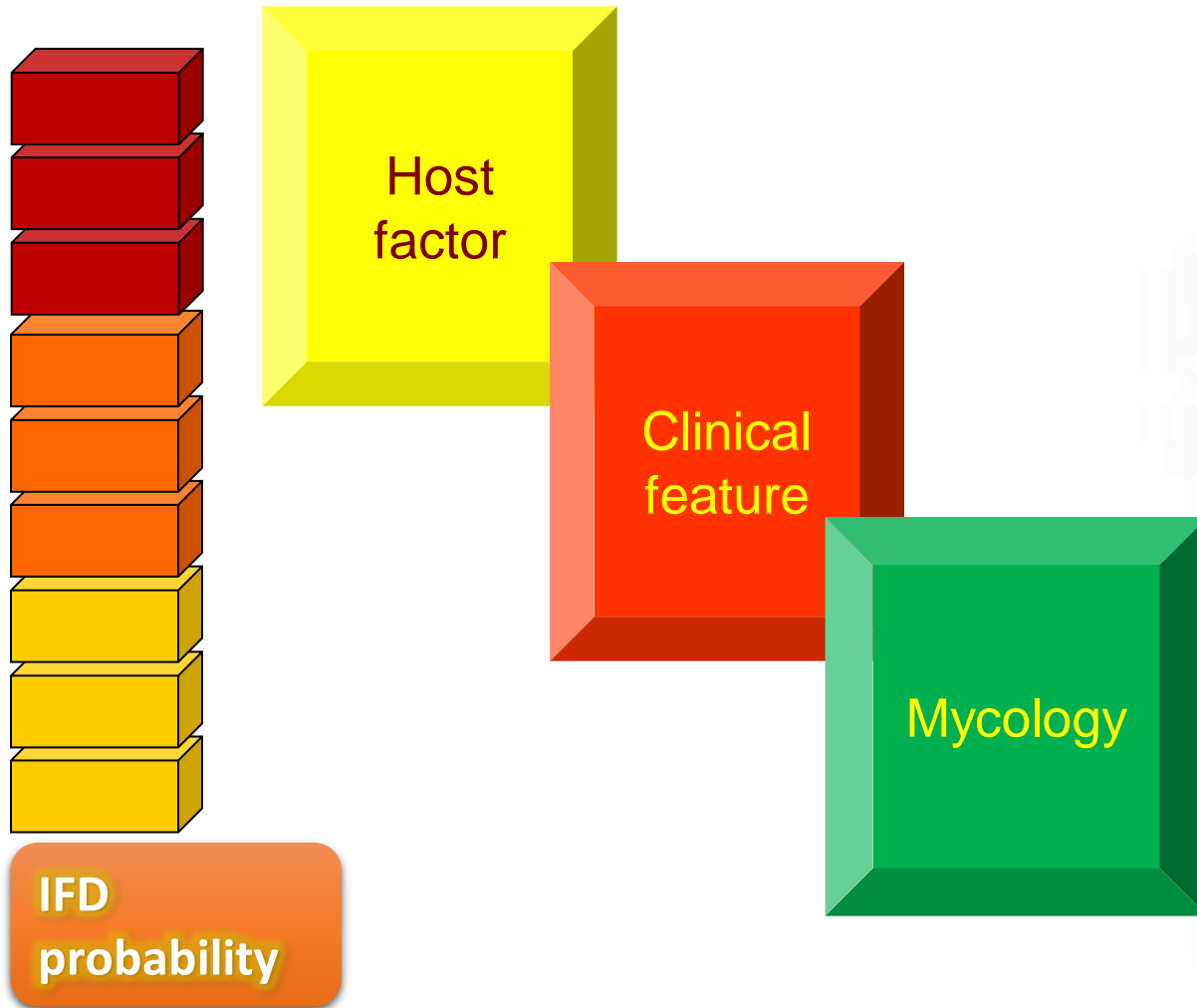
IFD
probability



Defining invasive fungal disease



Defining invasive fungal disease



Risk factors associated with Aspergillus infection

RISK FACTORS OF IFD

- Underlying diagnosis:
 - AML more than ALL
 - HSCT (severe aplastic anemia, Fanconi anemia)
- Neutropenia:
 - ANC < 100 cells/ μ L
 - duration > 28 days
 - neutropenia at the start of chemotherapy for leukemia

RISK FACTORS OF IFD

- Exposure to corticosteroid (high-dose, prolonged)
- Chemotherapy regimen:
 - intensive-induction timing vs standard-timing in AML
 - relapse vs front-line chemotherapy in AML
 - reduced-intensity conditioning regimen in allogeneic HSCT
- GVHD: severe acute GVHD, chronic GVHD
- Age: > 7.5-10 years

Diagnosis of Aspergillus infection

Recommendations for Fungal infections diagnosis

- **Direct microscopy**, preferably using optical brighteners
- **Histopathology**
- **Culture** are strongly recommended
- **Non- culture**
 - **Serum/BAL galactomannan**
 - **β -D-Glucan**
 - **LFD**
 - **PCR** should be considered in conjunction with other diagnostic tests
- Pathogen **identification to species complex level** is strongly recommended for all clinically relevant isolates
- **Antifungal susceptibility testing** should be performed in patients with invasive disease in regions with resistance found in contemporary surveillance programs

Aspergillus Galactomannan EIA clinical utility

- Used in conjunction with other diagnostic procedures to aid in the diagnosis of Invasive Aspergillosis:
 - microbiological culture
 - histological examination of biopsy specimens
 - radiographic evidence

KEY BENEFITS

- Screening high-risk patients with Aspergillus EIA, twice-weekly, provides early diagnosis of IA
- GM Ag was positive **6-10 days** before onset of clinical signs
- GM positivity preceded positivity of CT-Scan or culture by **>1 week**
- Aspergillus EIA was most sensitive (compared to RT-PCR and β -D-glucan) at predicting the diagnosis of IA in patients with hematologic disorder

Comparison to other diagnostic methods

Diagnostic Method	Sensitivity	Specificity
Chest Radiograph	94%	60%
CT-Scan (any abnormality)	78%	7%
CT-Scan (halo sign)	28%	93%
Culture (BAL)	50%	92%
GM EIA :		
Single sample ≥ 1.5	94%	85%
2 consecutive samples ≥ 1.5	94%	99%

J. Maertens JID 2002

Screen & Diagnose of IA in High-Risk patients

- **For maximum sensitivity**, the test should be performed **at least twice-weekly during hospitalization**. **For all positive patients**, it is recommended that **a new aliquot of the same sample** be repeated as well as **collection of a new sample** from the patient
- According to the **EORTC/MSG criteria**, **two consecutive positive results** are required for classification as **true positive**. In daily practice, it is important that physicians submit a **follow-up specimen** upon receipt of the initial positive result, ideally **before initiating antifungal therapy** to achieve **the highest specificity** using the test

Specimen type & specimen handling

- **Serum:**
 - Collect 3 to 5 ml blood specimen in a serum separator tube (SST) without anti-coagulants
 - Allow specimen to clot, then centrifuge specimen within 2 hours of the draw to pellet cells below the gel
 - Minimum volume of 1.0 ml serum following centrifugation is required
 - Specimen should be stored at 2 to 8° C or frozen in a non-self-defrosting freezer & shipped with frozen gel packs or dry ice for overnight delivery

Specimen type & specimen handling

- **BAL:**
 - 1 to 3 ml collected in a sterile, screw-cap tube
 - specimen should be stored at 2 to 8° C or frozen in a non-self-defrosting freezer
 - shipped with frozen gel packs or dry ice for overnight delivery

Causes for rejection of specimen

- **Lipemic, icteric, or hemolyzed specimens**
- **Specimens that have been stored at ambient temperature**
- **Specimens that have been stored at 2 to 8° C for >5 days**
- **If storage longer than 5 days is needed, samples should be frozen at -70° C**

Assay ranges

- The reference range is an index of **<0.5**
- Numerical index values will be reported
- Patients with an index of **>0.5** are considered to be **positive** for galactomannan antigen
- Patients with an index of **<0.5** are considered to be **negative** for galactomannan antigen

False-positive galactomannan test results

- patients receiving **piperacillin/tazobactam**; interpret results in these patients with caution & confirm with other diagnostic methods
- Patients with intestinal mucositis caused by chemotherapy, irradiation, which allows for extra absorption of dietary galactomannan

Fungal pathogen	1, 3 β -D-glucan	Galactomannan
Aspergillosis	✓	✓
Candida spp.	✓	✗
Pneumocystis jirovecii	✓	✗
Mucormycosis	✗	✗
Cryptococcosis	✗	✗

GM TEST INTERPRETATION

Optimal use of GM

1. Exclude IA when the prevalence is low ($<5\%$) (NPP **+++**);

Screening role

2. Confirm IA when the prevalence is high ($>20\%$) (PPV **+++**); **Diagnostic role**

3. Monitoring response (repeated detection indicates failure)

Low risk

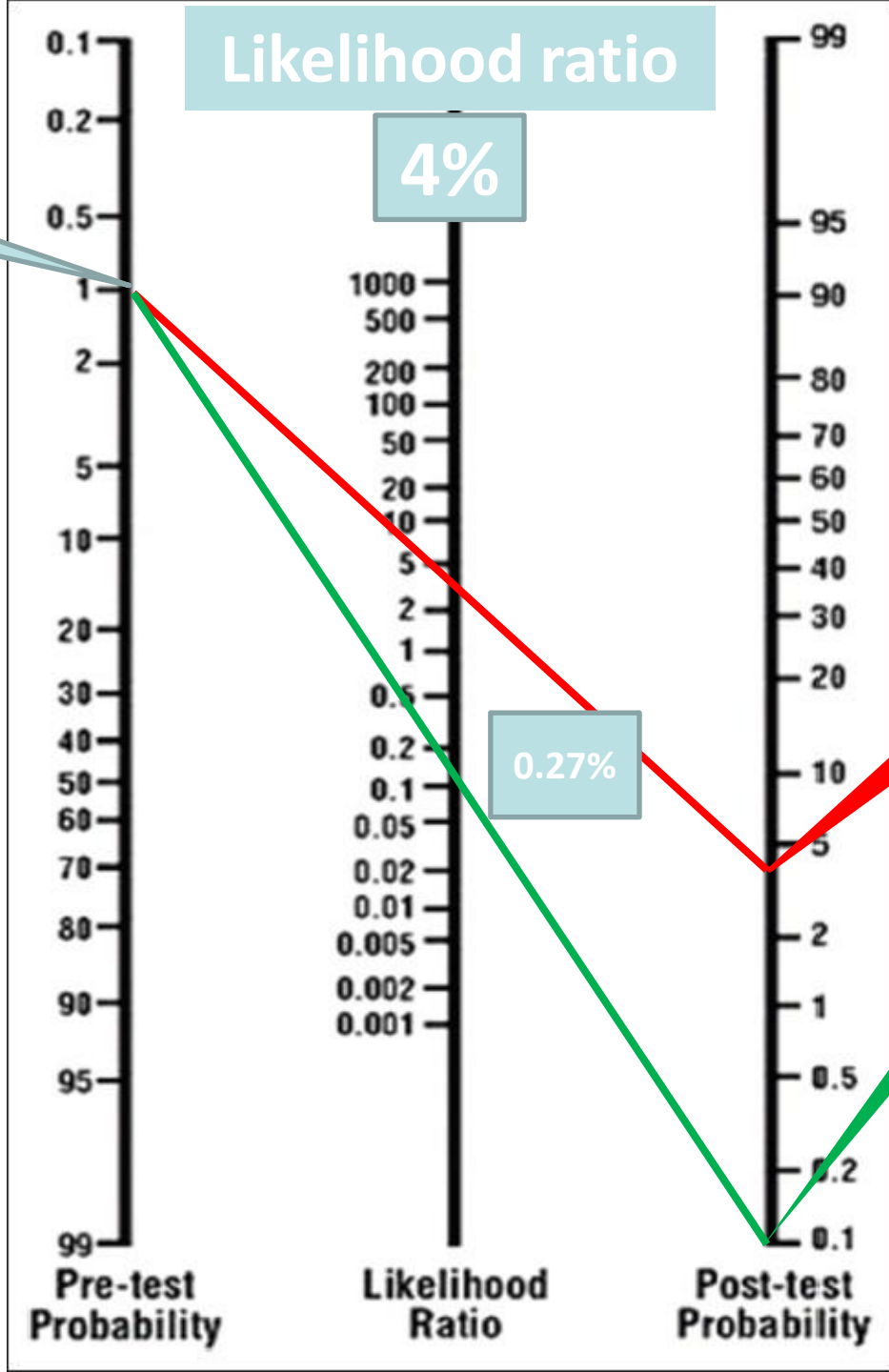
1%

Likelihood ratio

4%

Galactomannan
Sensitivity = 0.78
Specificity = 0.81

Pre-test
probability



4%

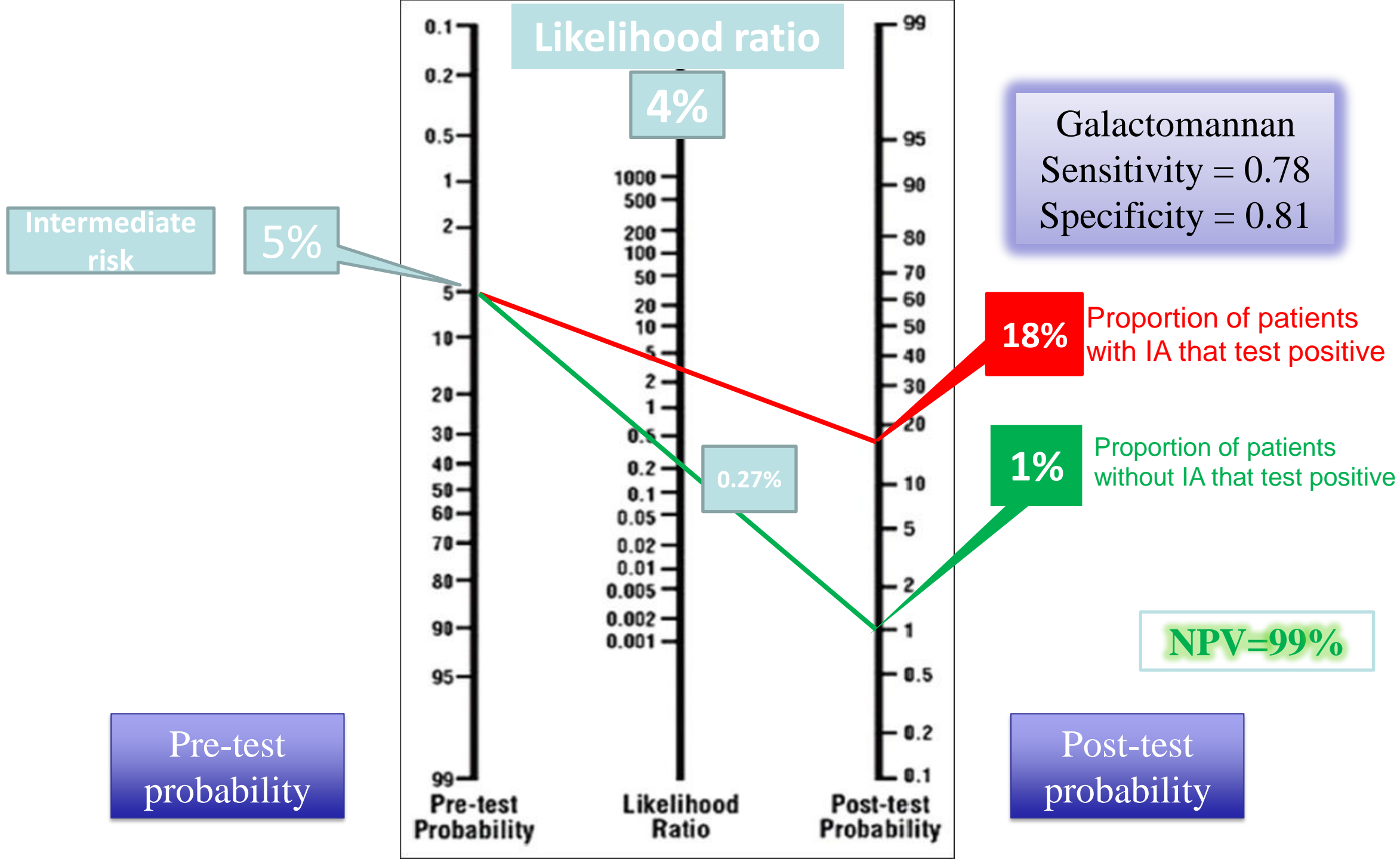
Proportion of patients
with IA that test positive

0.1%

Proportion of patients
without IA that test positive

NPV=99.9%

Post-test
probability



High risk

10%

Likelihood ratio

4%

Galactomannan
Sensitivity = 0.78
Specificity = 0.81

31%

Proportion of patients
with IA that test positive

3%

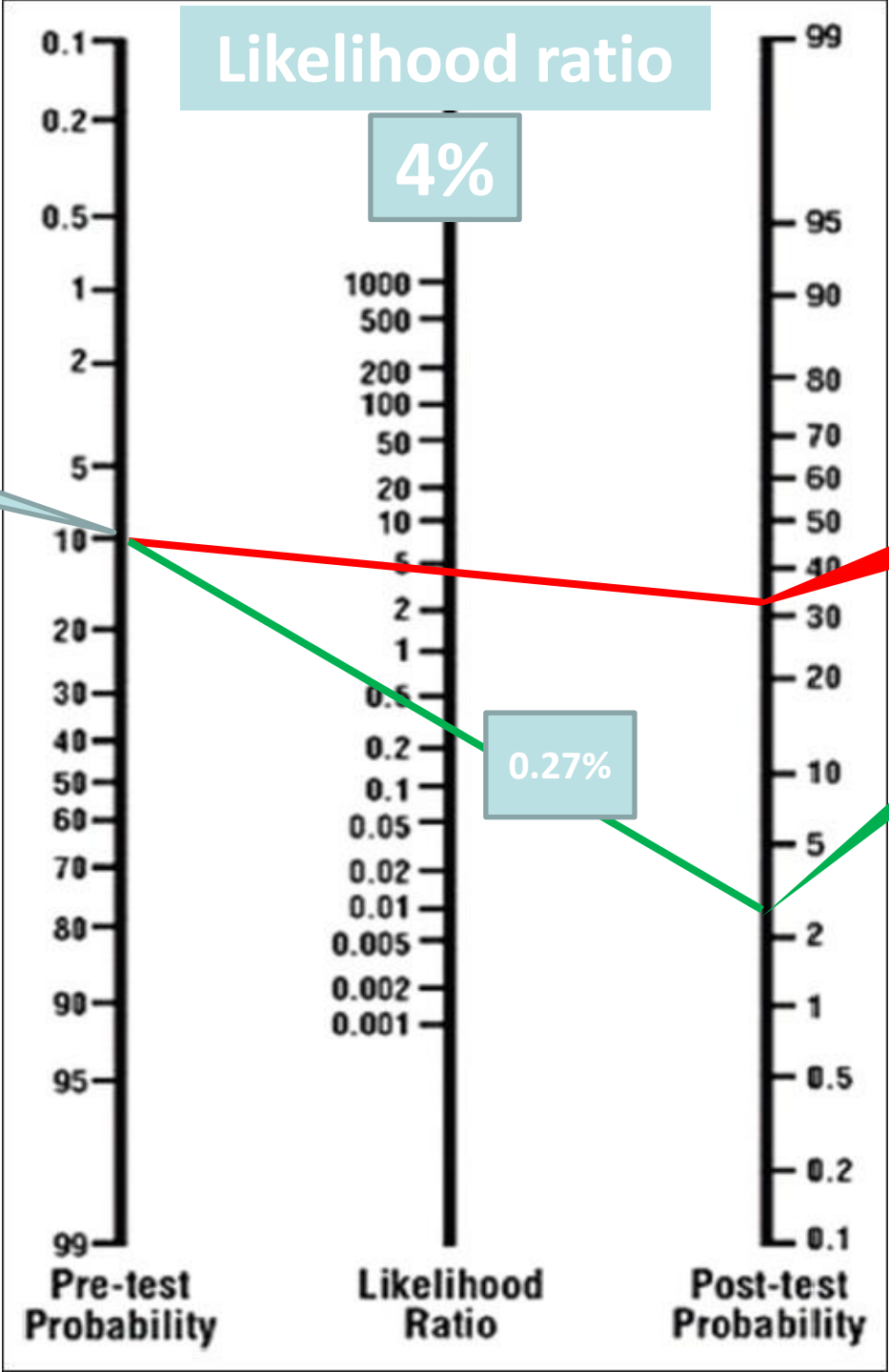
Proportion of patients
without IA that test positive

0.27%

NPV=97%

Pre-test
probability

Post-test
probability



Pre-test probability

BDG / GM testing (serum)

Post-test probability

Comments

IA Prevalence

Clinical suspicion

Hematologic cancer /
Neutropenia /
HSCT

Lung nodules
with halo or air-
crescent sign

**High
(++)**

+

+++

IA highly probable

-

+ to ++

IA suspicion remains
high (sensitivity of the
test not optimal)

Solid-organ
transplantation

Aspecific lung
nodules

**Moderate
(+)**

+

+ to ++

IA possible, but possibly
false positive result
(limited specificity)

-

+ / -

IA not excluded (low
sensitivity in this setting)

Auto-immune
diseases /
Solid cancer /
corticoid
therapy

Aspecific
lung infiltrate

**Low
(+/-)**

+

+ / -

Test uninterpretable.
Sensitivity and specificity
are both low (or unknown)
in this setting

-

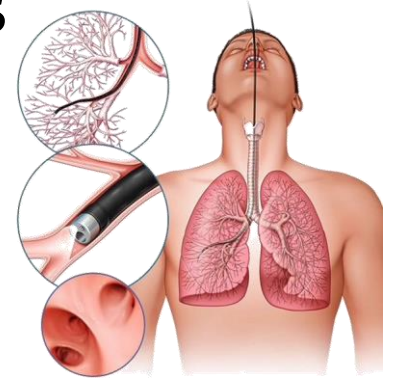
+ / -

DETECTION OF FUNGAL NUCLEIC ACIDS

Acceptable
specimens



- To confirm the microbiological diagnosis
 - Blood
 - Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid



- For species identification in frozen tissue
 - when molds or yeasts are seen in formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue



UTILITY OF PCR-BASED METHODS

Monitoring versus diagnosis



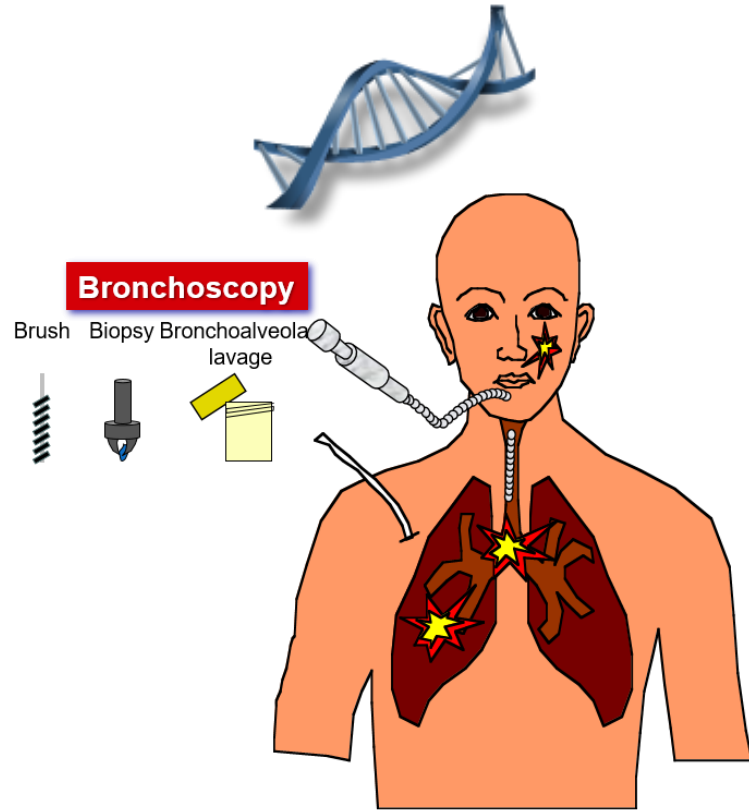
- Pooled sensitivity of **76%** (95% CI 62–86%)
- Pooled specificity of **58%** (95% CI 42–72%)
- Positive LR: **1.81**
- Negative LR: **0.41**



PCR-based assays in plasma, serum, or whole blood can be recommended for diagnostic use only, with moderate support (grade B recommendation, level of evidence II_t)

Diagnosis ✓ Monitoring ⊖

- Mold-active antifungal prophylaxis
- Interinstitutional variations in test performance
- Suboptimal specificity



- The use of PCR on bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, diagnostic aspirates, or tissue specimen is strongly recommended whenever the respective specimens are obtained (grade A recommendation, level of evidence IIb)

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

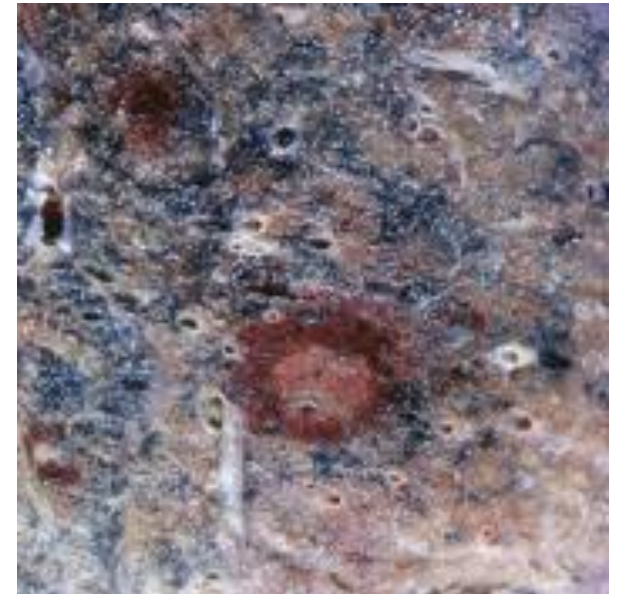
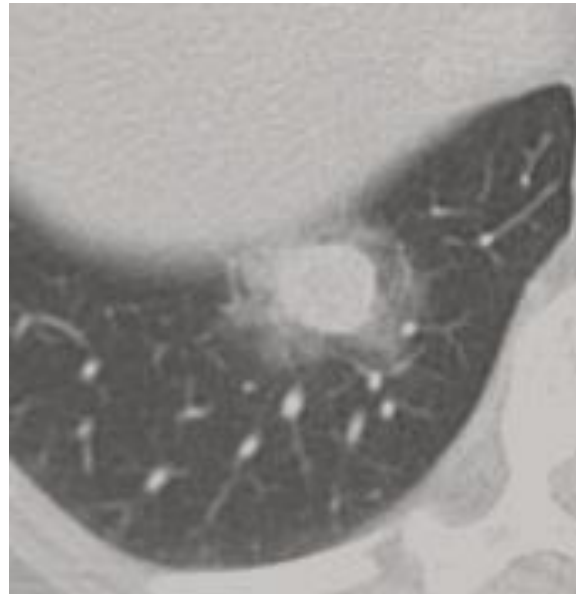
Radiographic manifestations of invasive pulmonary aspergillosis at diagnosis

Imaging finding	Percentage of patients with finding
One or more macronodule (>1.0 cm in diameter)	94
Two or more macronodules	79
Halo sign	61
Consolidation	30
Infarct shaped macronodule	27
Cavitary lesion	20
Air bronchograms	16
Clusters of small nodules (<1.0 cm in diameter)	11
Pleural effusion	11
Air crescent sign	10
Non-specific ground-glass opacification	9
Infarct shaped consolidation	8
Small-airway lesions	7
Atelectasis	3
Hilar/mediastinal lesion	2
Pericardial effusion	1

The halo sign

It is typically seen in [angioinvasive aspergillosis](#)

- A dense nodule surrounded by a perimeter of ground-glass opacity (due to oedema or hemorrhage)



It was noted in 61% of cases

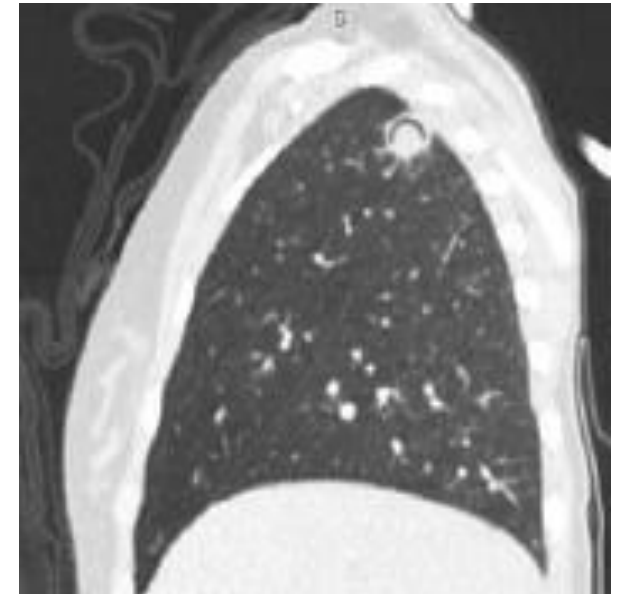
DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- Fungi
 - [pulmonary aspergillosis](#)
 - [pulmonary mucormycosis](#)
 - [pulmonary coccidioidomycosis](#)
 - [pulmonary cryptococcosis](#)
 - [pulmonary candidiasis](#)
- Mycobacterial
 - [pulmonary tuberculosis](#)
 - [pulmonary non-tuberculous mycobacterial infection](#)
 - pulmonary [*Mycobacterium avium complex*](#) infection

The air crescent sign

It is typically seen in [semi-invasive aspergillosis](#) and [angioinvasive aspergillosis](#)

- A sequestrum resided in a crescentic pocket of gas surrounded by a rim of viable lung



It was noted in 10% of cases

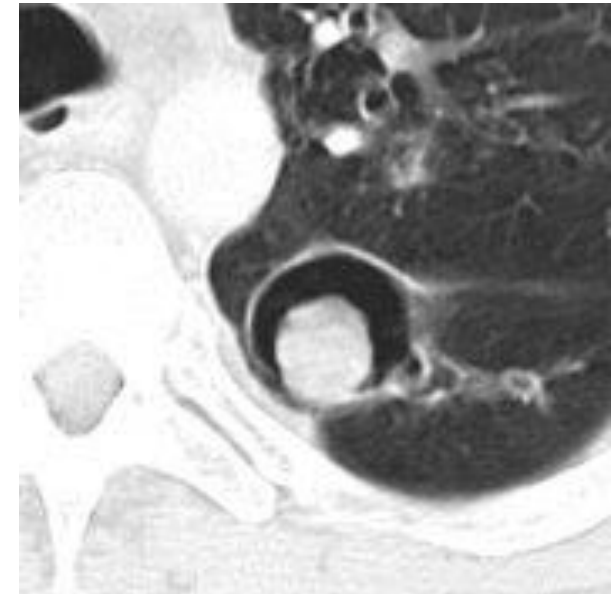
It usually heralds recovery and is the result of increased granulocyte activity

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- [aspergilloma](#): often described as the [Monod sign](#)
- [angioinvasive aspergillosis](#)
- [hydatid cyst](#)
- other rare causes
 - [pulmonary tuberculosis](#)
 - [Rasmussen aneurysm](#) in a tuberculous cavity
 - [pulmonary abscess](#)
 - [lung cancer](#)
 - [pulmonary hematoma](#)
 - [*Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia \(PJP\)](#)

The “Monod” (Monad) sign

- Gas that surrounds a mycetoma (most commonly an aspergilloma) in a pre-existing pulmonary cavity

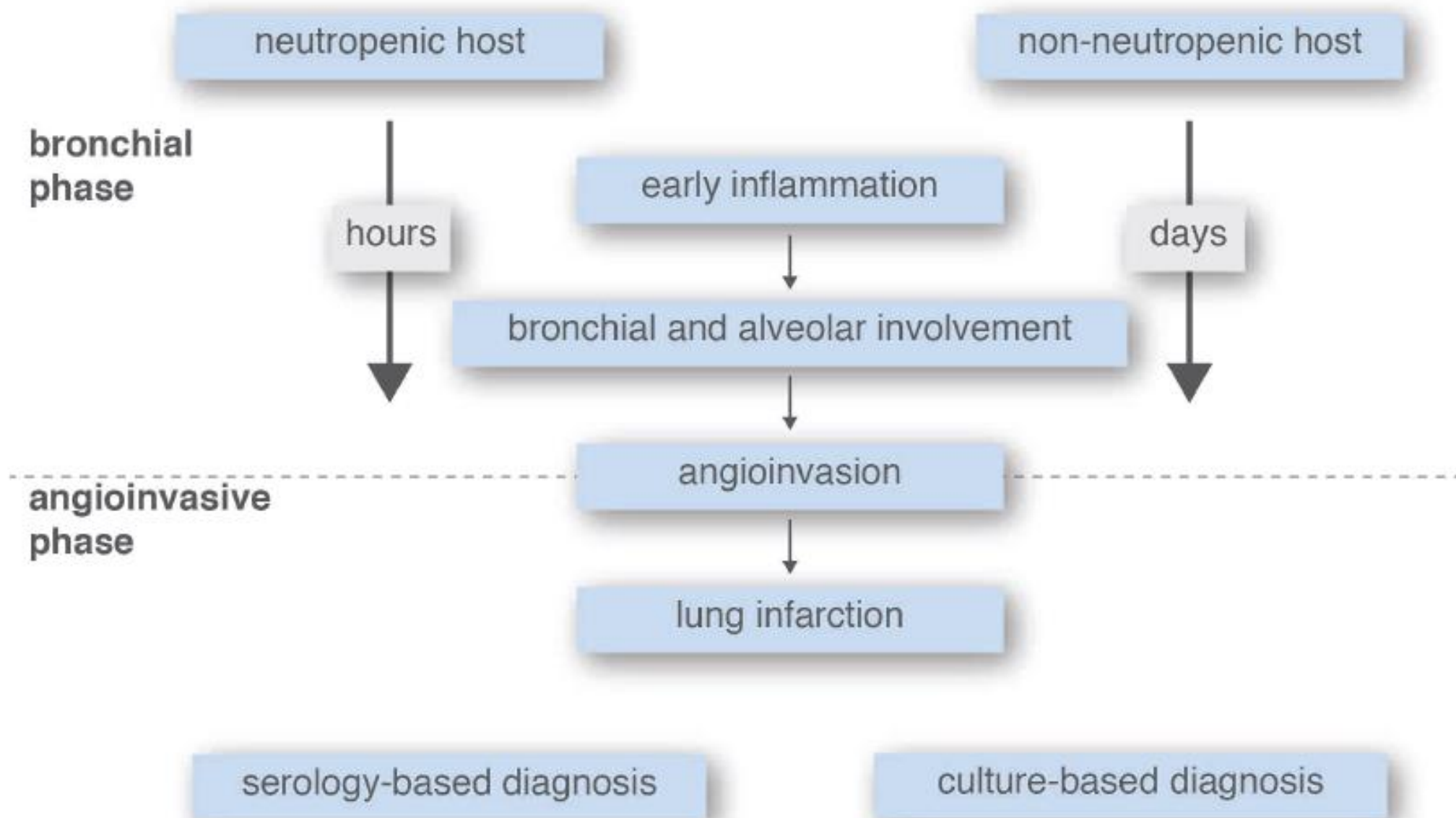


The sign implies a freely mobile mass, which moves on mobilizing the patient. This is best demonstrated by acquiring images in a prone position, causing the mass to fall, to a gravity-dependent location and favoring a Monod sign; as compared to an air crescent sign

ADVANTAGES

- Earlier diagnosis of invasive pulmonary aspergillosis
- Improve prognosis
- Useful tool for early response prediction

Pathological changes in the lungs



Fact 1

- Positive cultures from respiratory secretions occurred in 83% of patients with radiological signs of bronchoalveolar IPA and in 17% of patients with the angioinvasive form of IPA

Fact 2

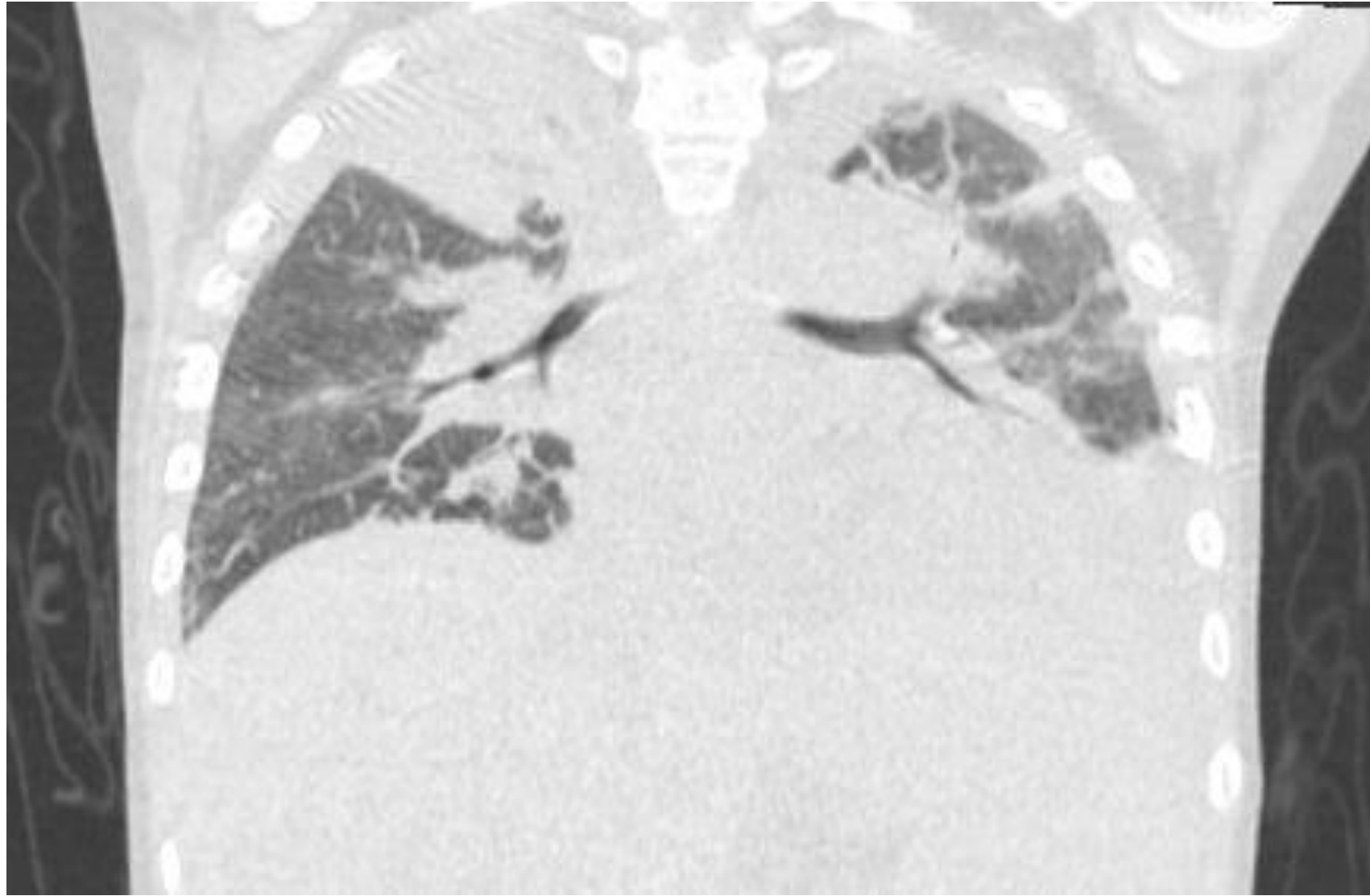
- Since the angioinvasive phase occurs earlier the more severely neutropenic the patient is, serum galactomannan is more likely to be positive

- By contrast, in patients with higher neutrophil counts the angioinvasive phase is delayed (or even does not occur at all) and serum galactomannan is less likely to be positive

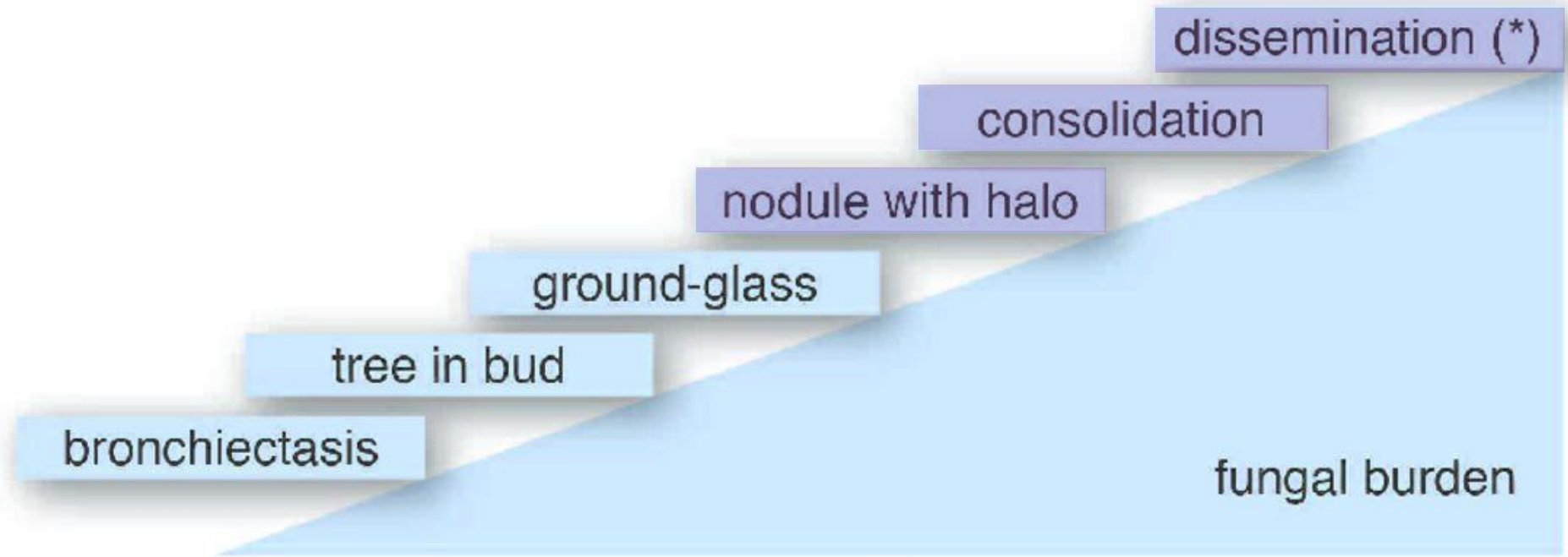
A DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF INVASIVE ASPERGILLOSIS

- Probable invasive aspergillosis without pre-specified radiological findings
- Radiological findings consisted mostly of ill-defined consolidations and ground-glass infiltrates

- All clinical and mycological criteria may be similar in non-neutropenic patients, with the exception of the radiological findings
- Marconodules with halo sign were more likely to be present in neutropenic patients
- Repeat imaging usually showed an evolution from the early images to the EORTC/MSG-defined images



imaging



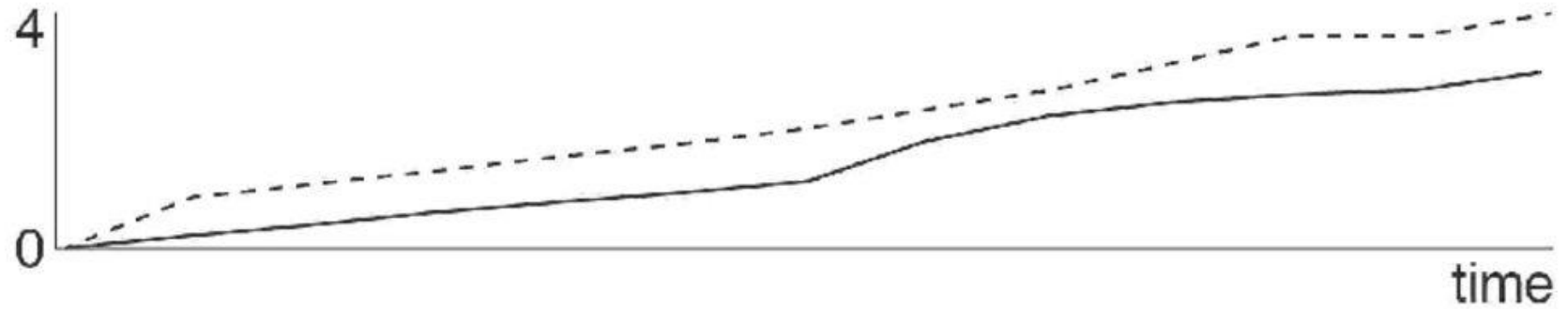
pattern



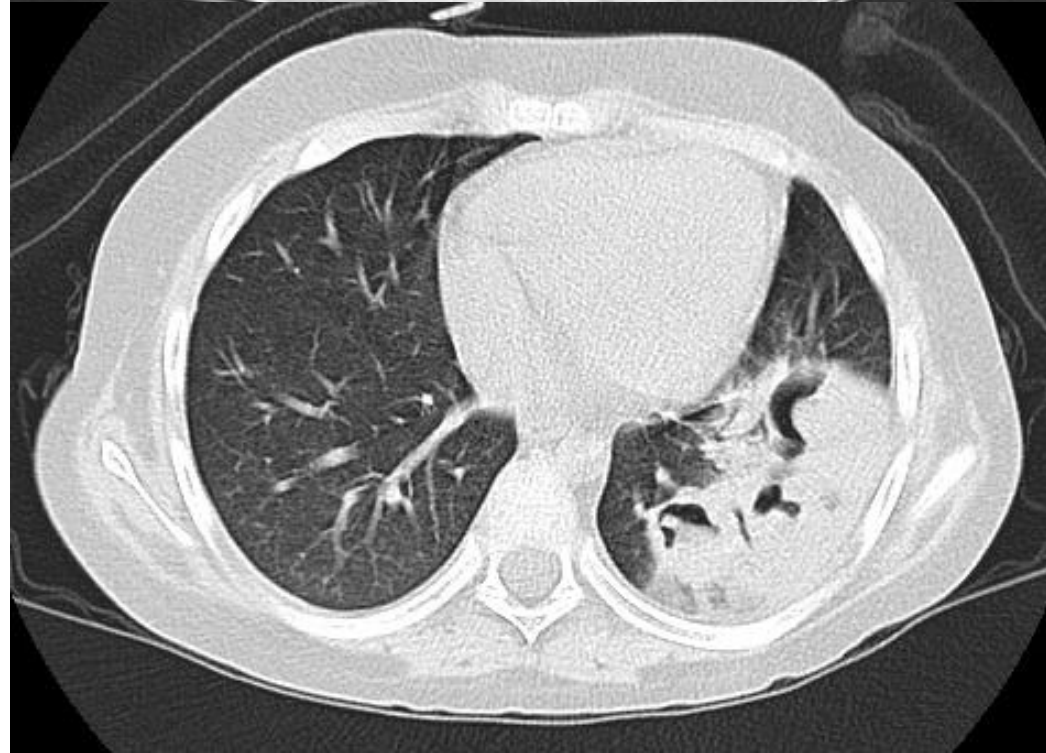
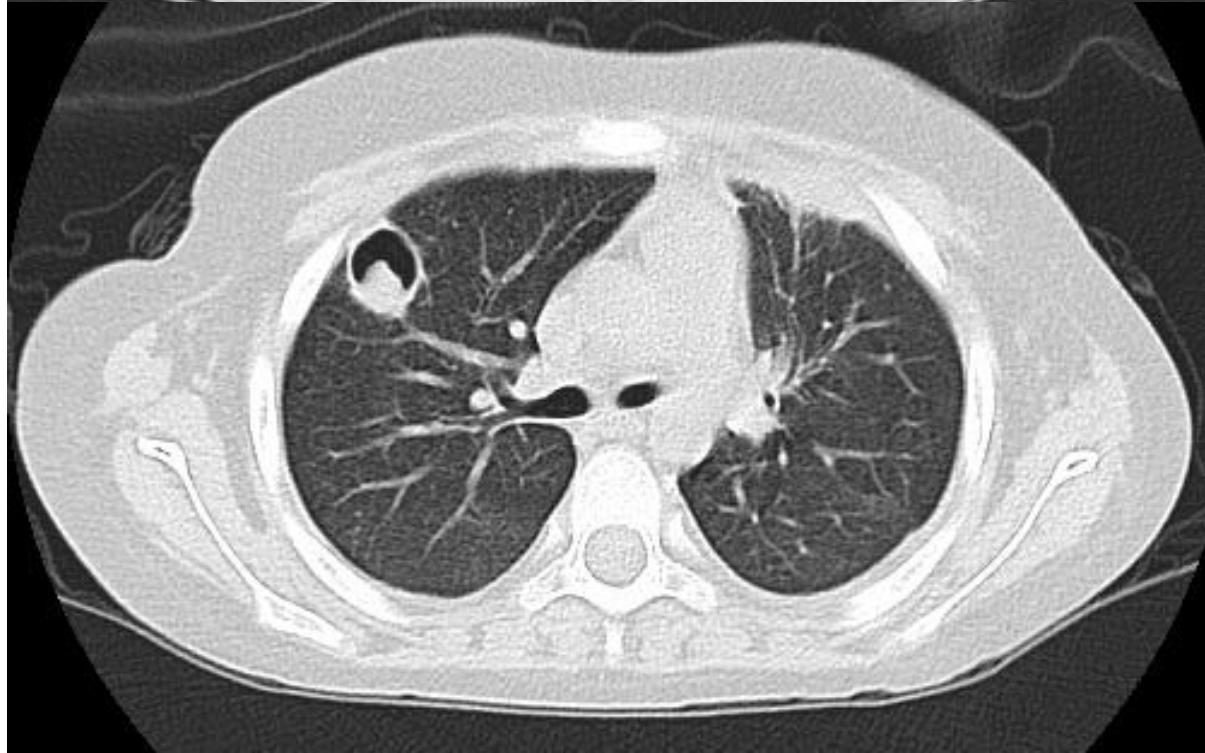
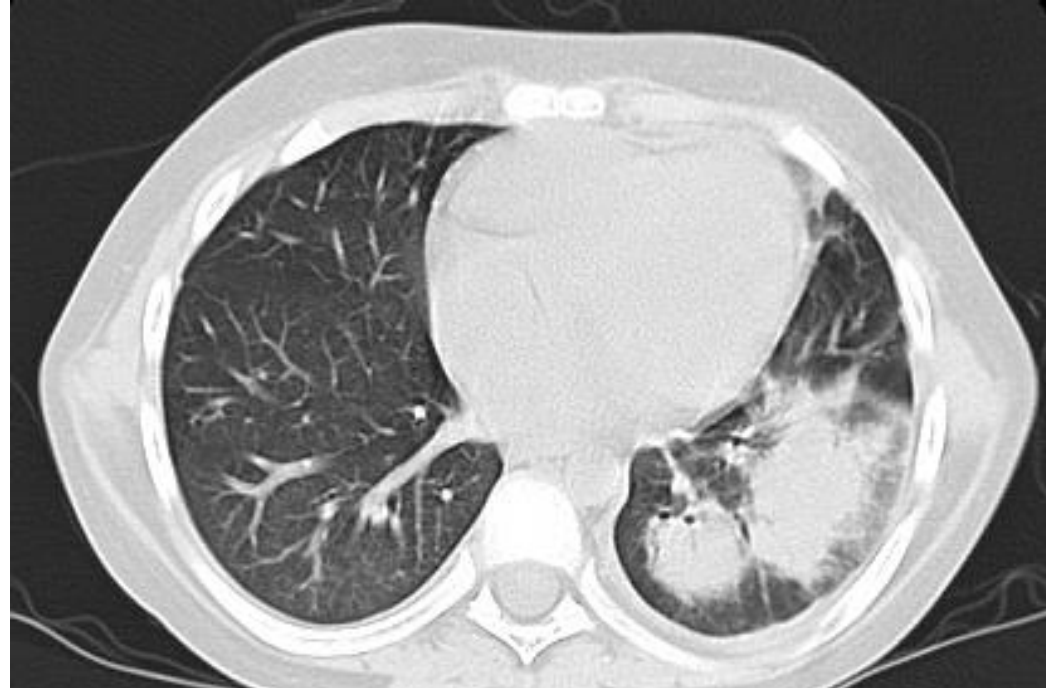
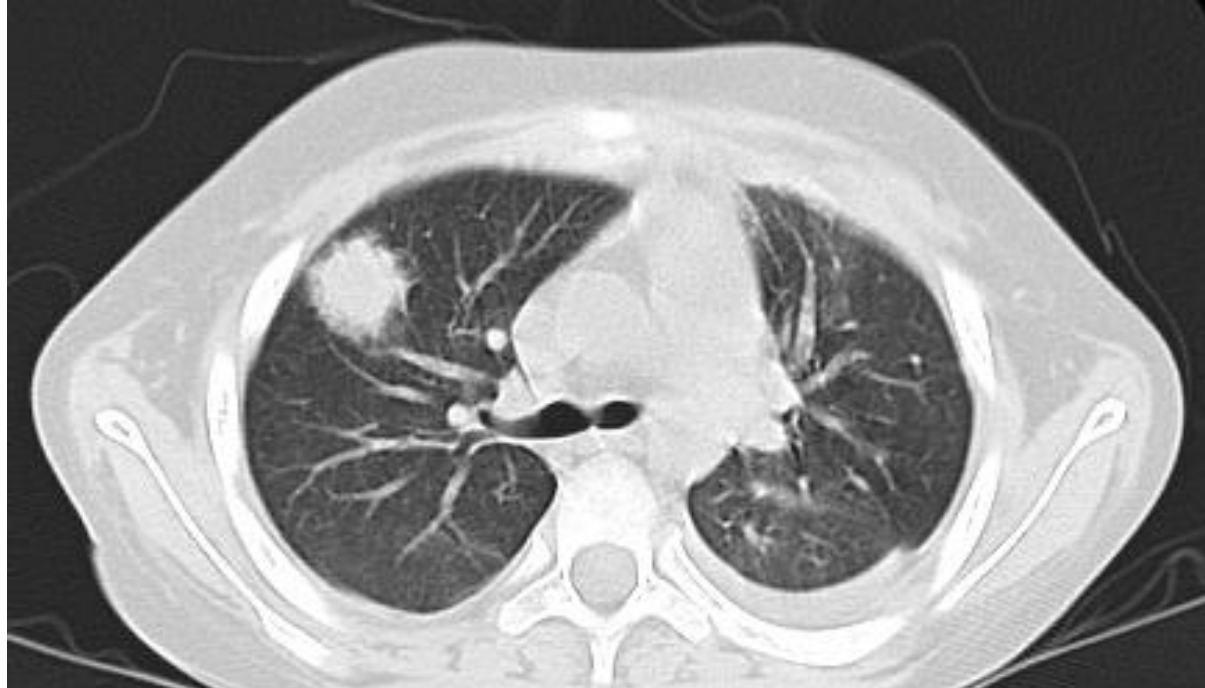
Galactomannan

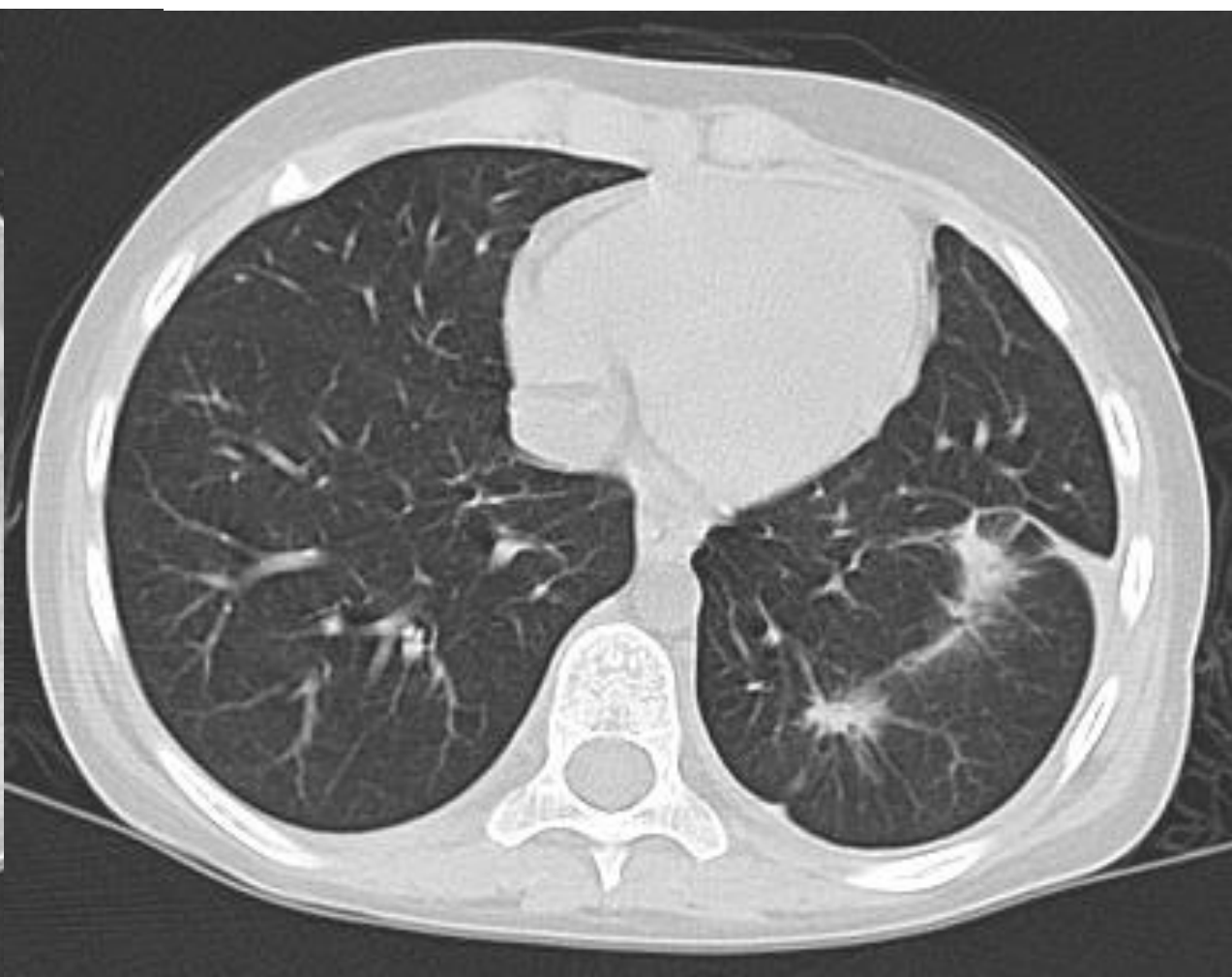
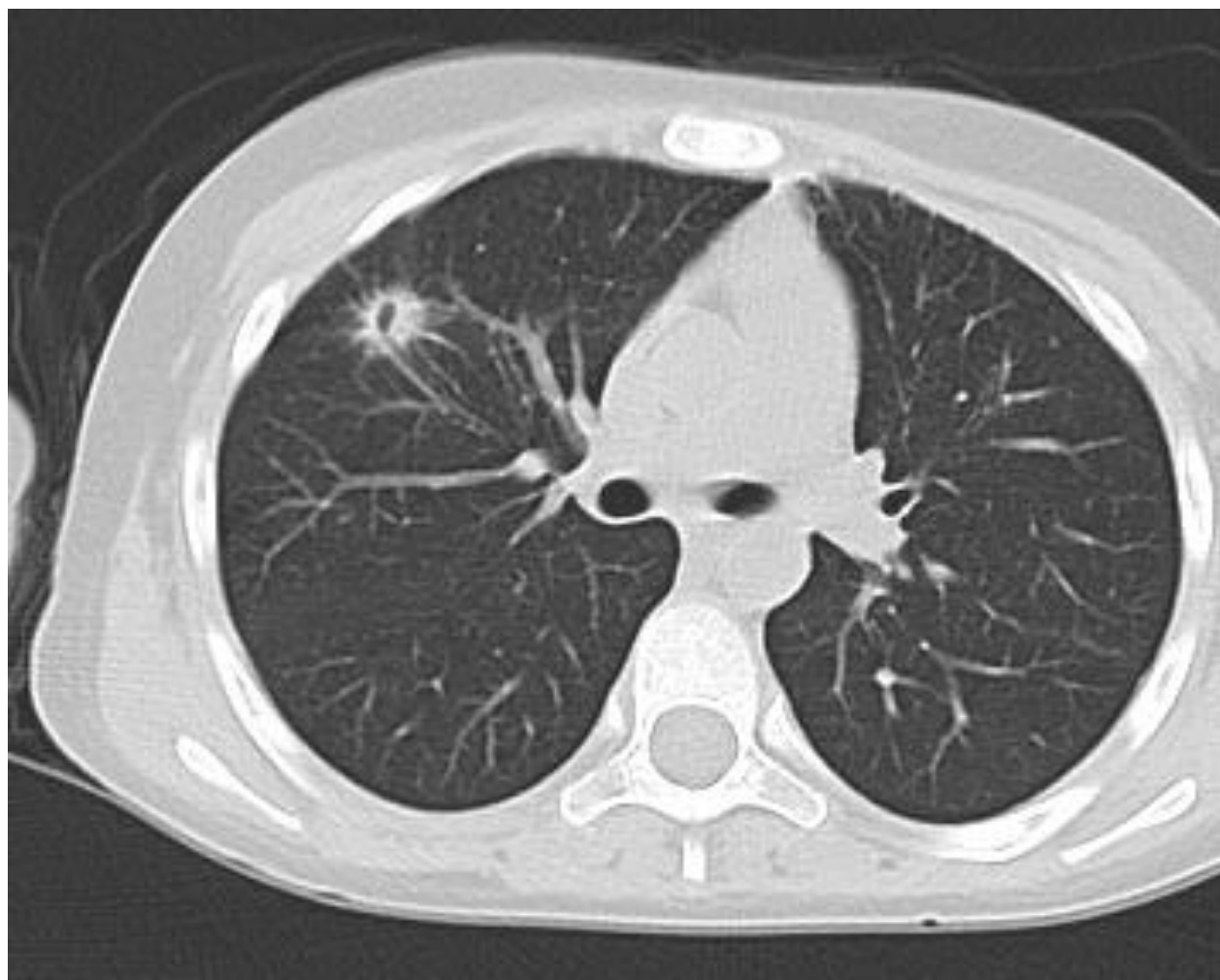
BAL

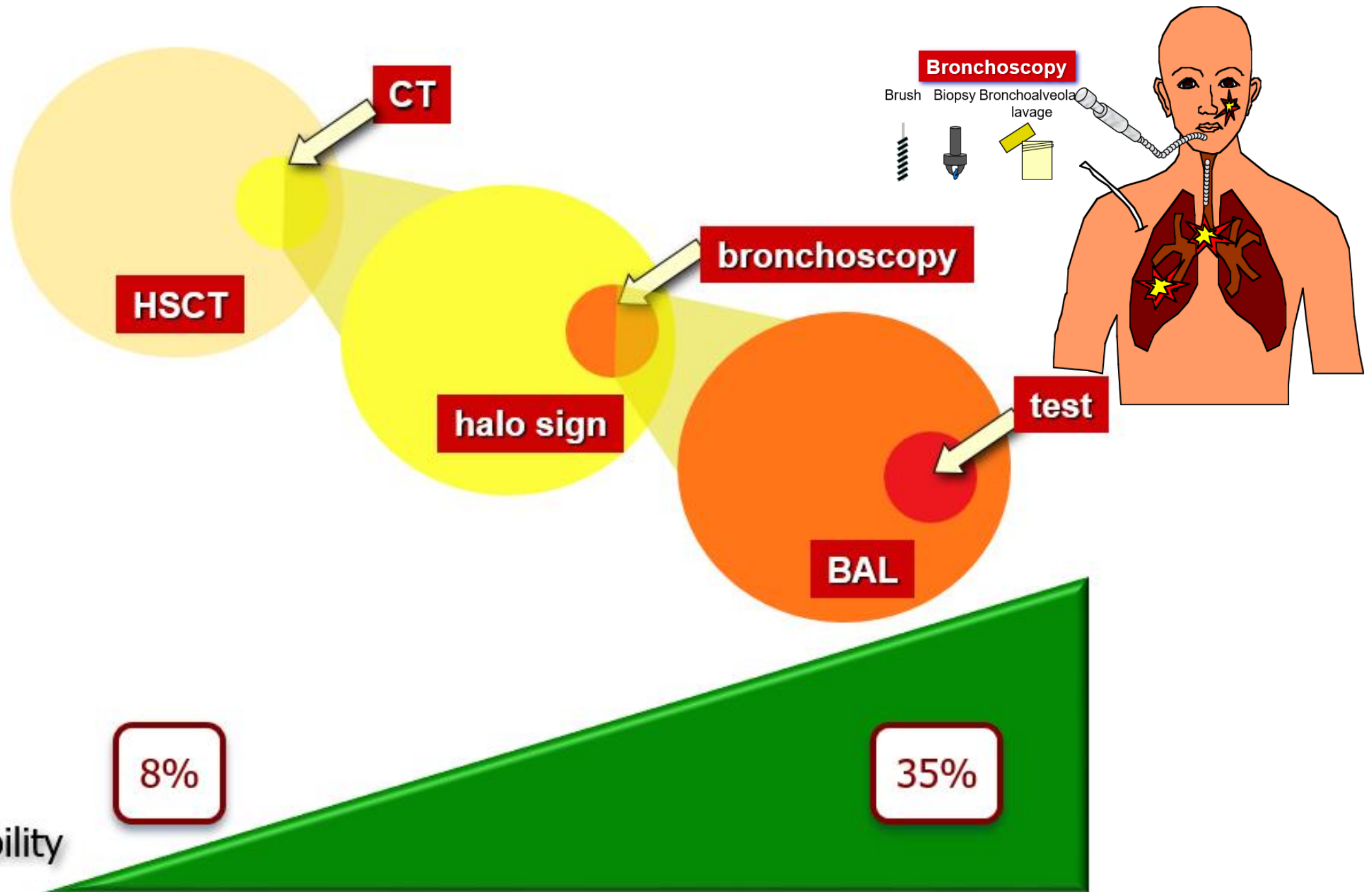
SERUM

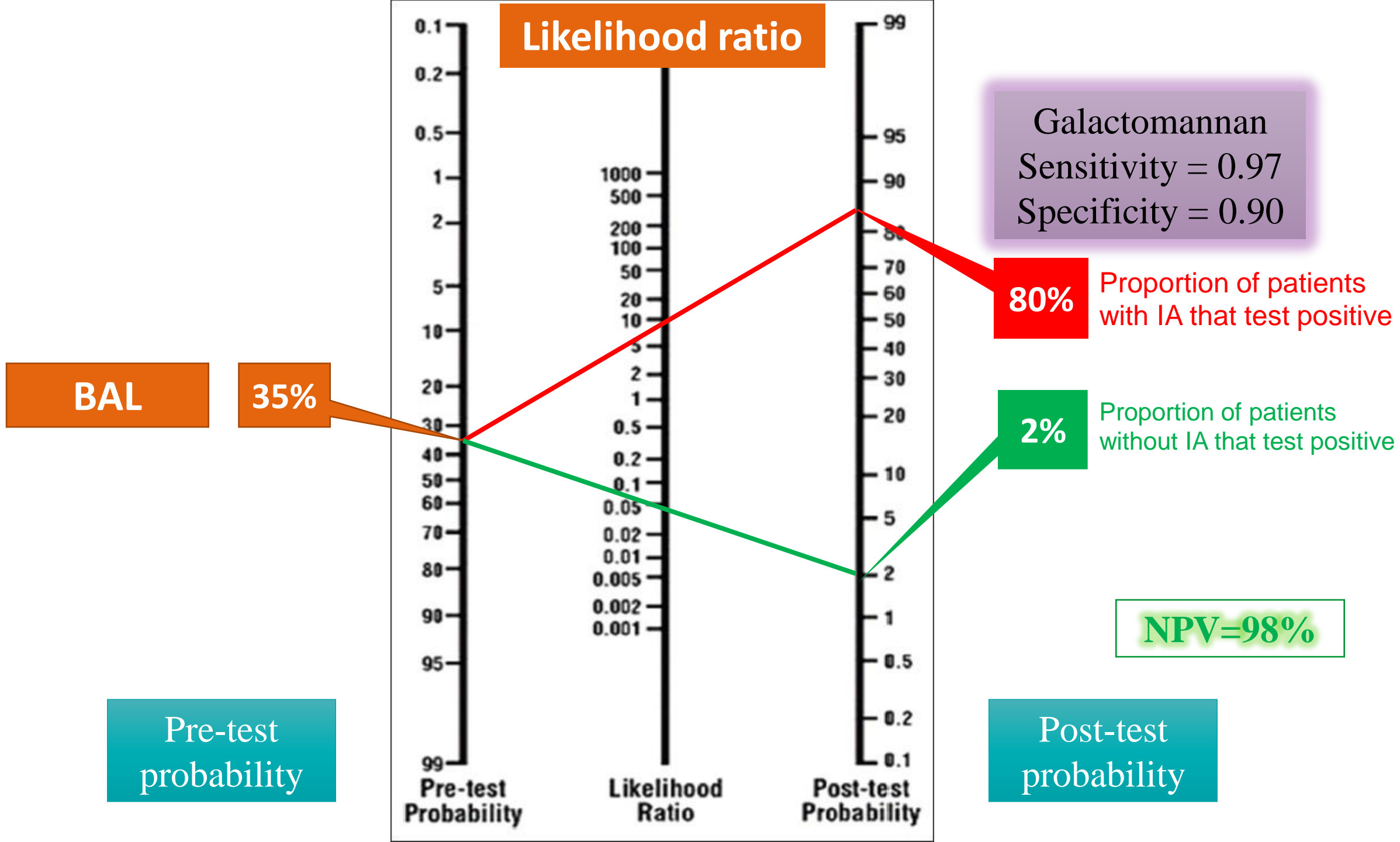


* lesions evolve to air crescent and cavity when neutrophils recover
BAL: bronchoalveolar lavage.



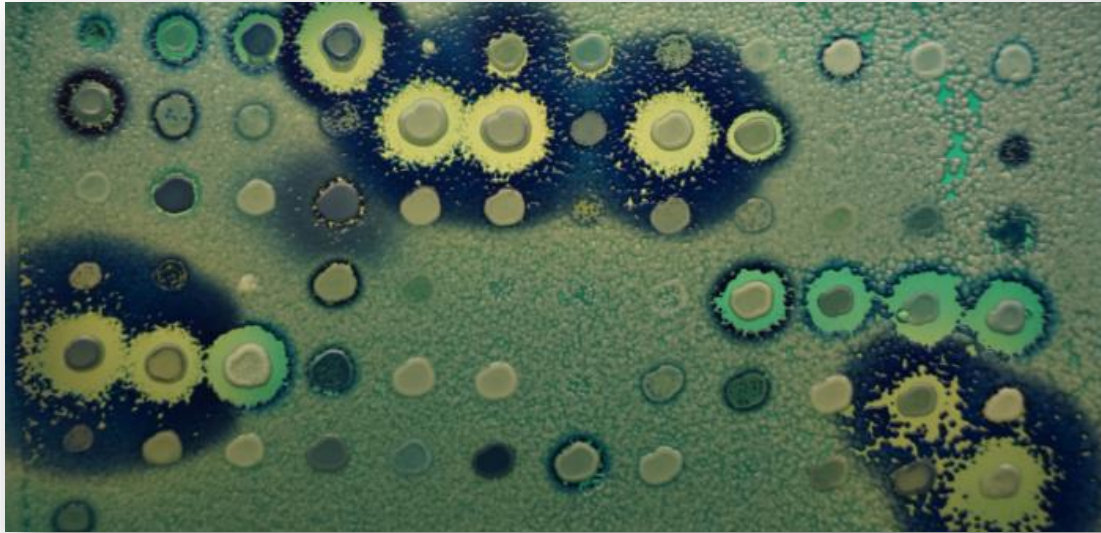






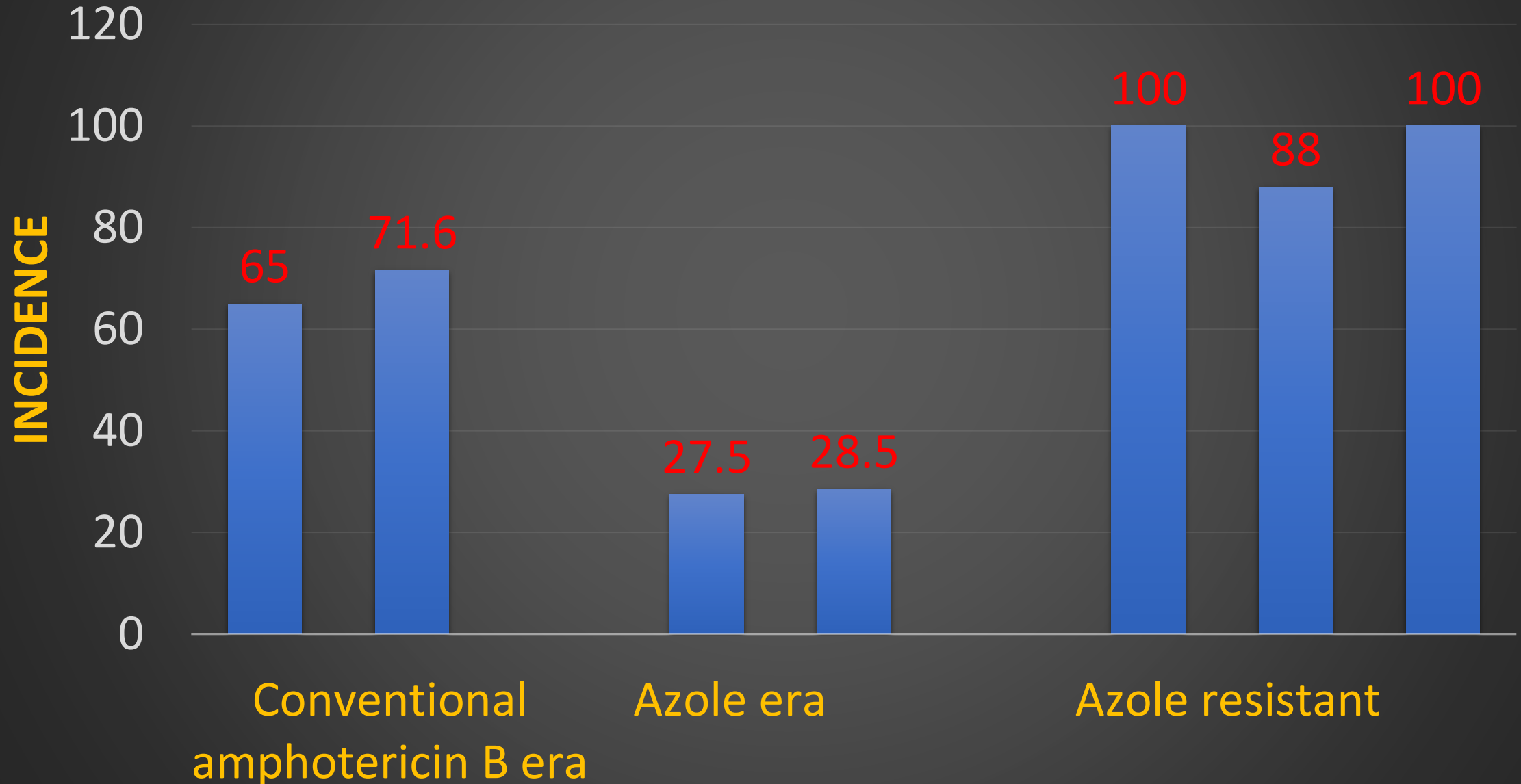
Treatment of Invasive Aspergillosis

- Several classes of antifungal agents can be used to treat IFDs, but some fungi have developed resistance and no longer respond to standard antifungals intended to eradicate them



Difficult-to-Treat
IFDs

Reported Mortality Rates in Patients With Invasive Aspergillosis in Different Time Periods



At risk

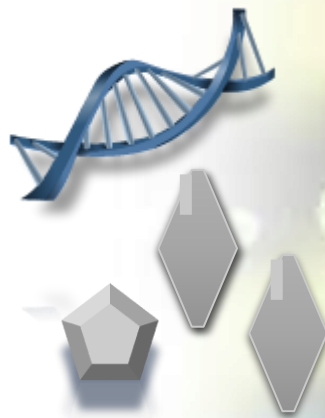
Infection

Disease

Prophylaxis

Diagnostic driven

Targeted

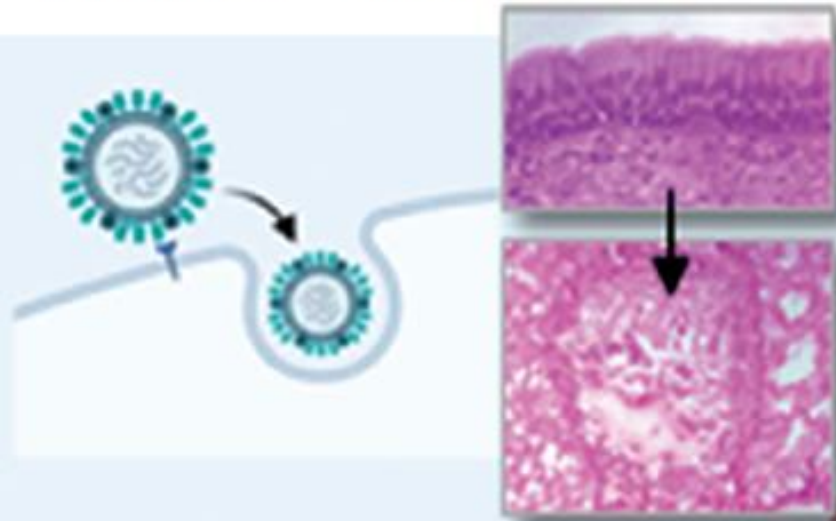


Invasive aspergillosis					
Voriconazole	Patients aged 2–12 years, or aged 12–14 years and weighing less than 50 kg: 8 mg/kg (9 mg/kg on day 1) twice a day intravenously or 9 mg/kg twice a day orally; patients aged 12–14 years and weighing 50 kg or more, or aged 15 years and older: 4 mg/kg (6 mg/kg on day 1) twice a day intravenously or 200 mg twice a day orally	A	IIb	Approved for patients older than 2 years; TDM suggested (target:trough concentration of between 1.0 and 5.0 mg/L); current treatment of choice for infections involving the CNS; a switch in class is to be considered in patients with breakthrough aspergillosis on mould-active azole prophylaxis	Clinical trials in adults; TDM dosing target; pharmacokinetic and safety and efficacy studies in paediatric patients
Liposomal amphotericin B	Single dose 3 mg/kg per day intravenously	B	IIb	Pivotal phase 3 trial compared two different doses but no head-to-head comparison to the reference agent at the time of its conduct (ie, voriconazole); first option if azole resistance is suspected or confirmed	Clinical trials in adults; pharmacokinetic and safety and efficacy studies in paediatric patients
Amphotericin B lipid complex	Single dose 5 mg/kg per day intravenously	C	II	No controlled first-line data available, but there are solid second-line data from treatment-naïve patients receiving the compound on the basis of its improved safety profile relative to amphotericin B deoxycholate	Clinical trials in adults; pharmacokinetic and safety and efficacy studies in paediatric patients
Combination therapy (voriconazole or liposomal amphotericin B plus echinocandin)		C	IIb	Randomised clinical trial of voriconazole plus anidulafungin versus voriconazole in adults showed no differences in the primary endpoint; randomized clinical trial of liposomal amphotericin B plus caspofungin was underpowered	
Isavuconazole	10 mg/kg (maximum 372 mg) isavuconazonium sulfate intravenously once daily (every 8 h on days 1–2)	A	IIb	Equivalent to voriconazole in randomised phase 3 clinical trial in adults; paediatric development ongoing in phase 2 trials	Clinical trials in adults; pharmacokinetic studies in paediatric patients

COVID-19-ASSOCIATED ASPERGILLOSIS AND INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED ASPERGILLOSIS

Influenza-associated pulmonary aspergillosis (IAPA)

Baseline immunocompromising
condition in 20%-30% of patients



Underlying viral
pathology

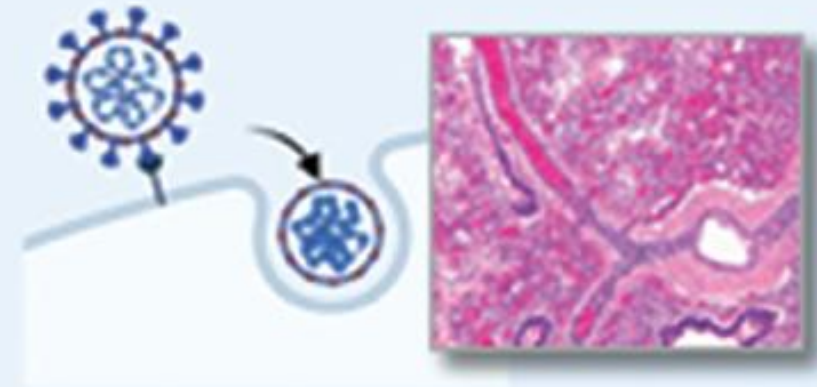


Influenza targets sialic-acid expression
in tracheobronchial epithelium

Panbronchiolitis → microthrombosis (< 25%)
→ diffuse alveolar damage

COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis (CAPA)

Baseline immunocompromising
condition in <10% of patients



SARS CoV-2 targets ACE2 expression in type 2
pneumocytes and pulmonary endothelial cells

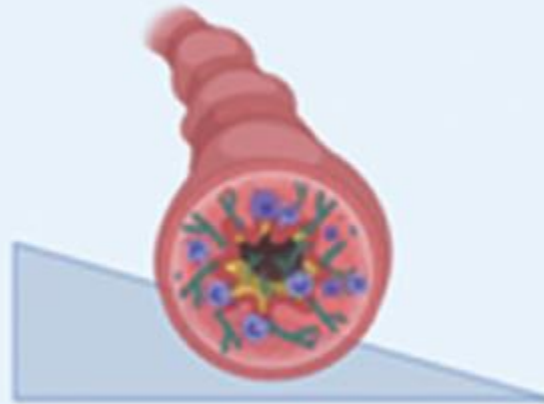
Inflammation → microthrombosis (>50%)
→ diffuse alveolar damage

**Influenza-associated
pulmonary
aspergillosis (IAPA)**



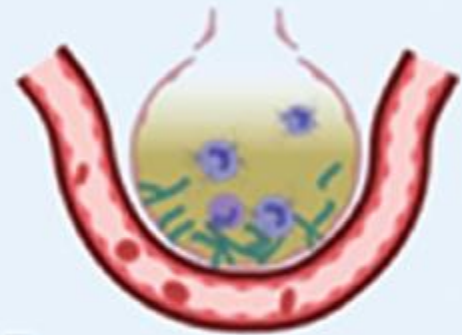
Serum galactomannan positive
in 50%-70% of patients

**Inflammatory and airway-
Invasive aspergillosis**



Angioinvasive disease at time of
pulmonary aspergillosis diagnosis

**COVID-19-associated
pulmonary
aspergillosis (CAPA)**



Serum galactomannan positive
in <10% of patients

Viral pneumonia treatment

Influenza-associated pulmonary aspergillosis (IAPA)



- Antiviral therapy (oseltamivir)
- Corticosteroids: not standard of care (discouraged)

COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis (CAPA)



- Antiviral therapy (remdesivir)
- Corticosteroids: standard of care
- Other immunomodulatory drugs eg, tocilizumab, anakinra (occasionally used)

Characteristic	IAPA	CAPA
Incidence	Variable (10%–30%)	Variable (4%–35%)
Baseline characteristics of patients	Approximately 25%–30% immunocompromised ^a	<10% immunocompromised ^a Predominantly male Obesity, hypertension, diabetes
Timing	Early (usually within 3–7 d from ICU admission)	Variable (from 3 to >14 d from ICU admission)
Mycological findings	Positive serum galactomannan in 50%–70% of cases Bronchoscopy and BAL findings in most cases	Positive serum galactomannan in <10% of cases Infrequent use of bronchoscopy, diagnosis relying on non-BAL respiratory samples in some cases
Type of IPA classification ^b	Majority of probable/proven cases (≥60%) Important proportion of tracheobronchitis (30%)	Majority of putative cases (>90%) Unknown proportion of tracheobronchitis
Inflammatory response to viral infection	Potential deleterious role of high IL-10	Potential protective role of high TNF- α /IFN- γ
Bacterial superinfections	Frequent pneumonia due to community-acquired pathogens Nosocomial pneumonia in 10%–20% of influenza ICU cases	Rare pneumonia due to community-acquired pathogens Nosocomial pneumonia in 10%–20% of COVID-19 ICU cases
Role of corticosteroids	Deleterious impact on both overall influenza mortality and IAPA incidence	Benefit for overall COVID-19 survival, unknown impact on CAPA incidence
Impact on outcome	Overall mortality 50%–60% Association of IAPA with increased mortality in some studies [3, 13]	Overall mortality 60%–70% Association of CAPA with increased mortality demonstrated in some but not all studies [5, 16]







THANK YOU FOR
YOUR PATIENCE