Conclusion

Although the most common causes of neuro-infections are bacteria and viruses, the role of fungi should not be ignored especially since these potentially devastating infections are encountered world wide. Fungal infections of the central nervous system (CNS) have a large spectrum of presenting features, and though most patients are immunocompromised hosts, immunocompetent subjects can also be affected. Unfortunately, the diagnosis is often delayed or not considered in routine clinical practice.

Diagnosis and management of CNS infections due to fungi is a true challenge because they often occur in a clinical context that is neither specific nor alarming. Neuroimaging data may be indicative but are not specific. However, pathology plays an important role for confirming the definitive diagnosis, especially if clinical findings, laboratory studies, and diagnostic imaging investigations are not conclusive. Systemic antifungal medications remain the cornerstone of management. However, in many patients diagnosis remains uncertain, or medical treatments are not effective, and severe complications needing surgical intervention may occur.

With these in mind, the main purpose of this richly illustrated book is to provide the reader with a frame of symptoms and signs of this particular infectious disease in an effort to suspect and confirm the diagnosis of CNS fungal infections at and early stage and therefore prevent damage to the brain parenchyma and meninges.

Education and training of medical personnel to recognize the disease early forms the pedestal of successful management along with careful infection control practices. Also, concomitant research to understand the pathogenesis of the disease, genetic risk factors for invasive fungal infections in humans, and the advance in diagnostic tools in addition to new therapeutic modalities can improve outcomes in the future.

Aydın, Turkey   Mehmet Turgut
Hyderabad, India   Sundaram Challa
Marrakech, Morocco   Ali Akhaddar