

Pneumocystis jirovecii

Pneumocystis jirovecii is an atypical fungus, it appears to be widespread because a significant proportion of the population has antibodies to this microorganism. However, symptomatic manifestations only occur in people with **defective cellular immunity**. Therefore, a high incidence of **pneumonia** caused by **P. jirovecii** is observed in patients on immunosuppressive therapy and in people with HIV.

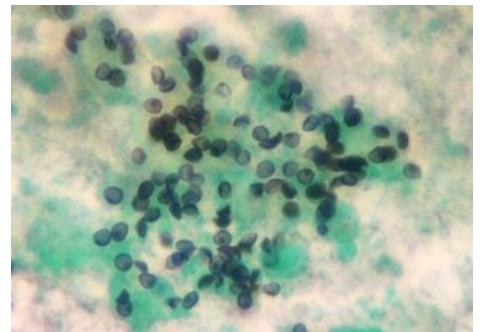
Clinical picture

 For more information see *Pneumocystosis*.

Diagnostics

Symptoms are non-specific and may resemble a number of other infectious and non-infectious respiratory diseases.

The organism cannot be isolated from coughed sputum using conventional culture methods and therefore **invasive techniques** such as open lung biopsy or bronchoalveolar lavage are required. In such material, the organism may be highlighted by **silver staining** or **immunofluorescence**. DNA amplification by PCR increases the sensitivity of the test.



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Therapy

Usually high doses of **cotrimoxazole**. An alternative is **pentamidine**.

Links

Related articles

- Pneumocystosis

Literature

- GOERING & DOCKRELL & ZUCKERMAN & ROITT & CHIODINI,. *Mims' Medical Microbiology*. 5. edition. Elsevier, 2012. 590 pp. ISBN 9780702050299.