Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Citation:

What was your research question? (50 words maximum)
We wanted to better understand what factors may be contributing to the rise of fungal colonization/infections in patients with cystic fibrosis (CF). In particular, we looked at a fungus known as *Scedosporium* species.

Why is this important? (100 words maximum)
Over the past twenty years there has been an increase of fungal colonizations/infections in the CF population and *Scedosporium* species is the second most common mold seen in the CF lung. We do not fully understand the direct causes or effects of finding *Scedosporium* on cultures.

What did you do? (100 words maximum)
We studied individuals with CF who were 6 years and older in the CF Foundation Patient Registry between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012. We identified the individuals who had a positive culture for *Scedosporium* and compared their characteristics to see if they shared anything in common. People who had a history of lung or liver transplant were not included.

What did you find? (100 words maximum)
The study found *Scedosporium* species in approximately 3% of the United States CF population. Older patients and Caucasian individuals were more likely to have a positive *Scedosporium* culture. In addition, people who were prescribed an inhaled antibiotic, such as tobramycin or aztreonam, were more likely to have a positive *Scedosporium* culture.
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What does this mean and reasons for caution? (100 words maximum)

The association between inhaled antibiotics and *Scedosporium* informs us that chronic inhaled antibiotics may be playing a role in *Scedosporium* colonization/infection. However, we cannot conclude that inhaled antibiotics are directly causing *Scedosporium* colonization/infection. It is plausible that we are seeing *Scedosporium* in sicker people who happen to be on inhaled antibiotics. Further investigation to better characterize this relationship is necessary.

What’s next? (50 words maximum)

We need to see the clinical impact that *Scedosporium* has on CF patients.