

11-year-old boy youngest mucor survivor in K'taka

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Bengaluru:

An 11-year-old boy from Chitradurga who didn't know he had Covid-19 and Type 1 diabetes is the youngest survivor of mucormycosis in Karnataka. The boy lost vision in his left eye to the fungal infection, but the right eye has been saved.

The boy, who is now at Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College Hospital, tested negative for Covid-19 and was made to undergo a Covid-19 antibody test. The high level of antibodies confirmed the boy's past infection. Also, this is an undiagnosed case of juvenile diabetes. "The boy must have been exposed to Covid-19. He had not undergone a Covid test since he probably had mild symptoms or was asymptomatic," said doctors treating the boy.

The boy went to doctors with blurred vision. "In his case, the undiagnosed juvenile diabetes was the major risk factor that cost him his vision," said Dr CN Reddy, professor of pediatrics at the medical college hospital. The doctor said the boy was not on steroids. "We suspect the Covid variant, which infected him, may have contributed to the fungal infection," he said.

LOST VISION IN 1 EYE

- Boy, 11, was asymptomatic and not tested for Covid. Brought to hospital with blurred vision
- Hospital Covid result negative but antibody test reveals past exposure
- Doctors say he had undiagnosed juvenile diabetes as well
- Undergoes surgery to remove fungal infection in frontal lobe, loses vision in left eye

Chitradurga boy had infection in brain

The boy was admitted to Nimhans for a surgery to remove the fungal debris and puss in the brain and for neurological evaluation on May 28 and was sent back to Bowring hospital on May 30. Dr Dwarakanath Srinivas, professor and head, neurosurgery, Nimhans, said kids are not seen with fungal infection and

this was a very rare case. “The boy had an infection in the frontal lobe of the brain. He needs to be treated with Liposomal Amphotericin B antifungal drug. Diabetes was the risk factor,” Dr Srinivas said, adding there is no evidence to say that the infection may have been caused due to Covid variant.

Another case was that of a 13-year-old Ballari girl, a Type 1 diabetic who suffered from mucormycosis. The girl was referred from Bowring to Nimhans and operated on Sunday. The girl was treated for Covid with oxygen support in Ballari earlier. The girl lost vision in her left eye. “She had a frozen eyeball and muscles in the eye were infected. She has now been sent back to Bowring for continuation of antifungal therapy,” said Dr Srinivas.

Both children require further assessment. The doctors said it was early to say if they could regain vision through corneal transplant. “If the optic nerve, which is involved in these cases, has been damaged, then corneal transplant will not be helpful. Once the infection subsides, we need to evaluate why the children lost vision,” said Dr Srinivas. After recovering from Covid, any nasal discharge among kids should not be ignored, especially if they are suffering from uncorralled diabetes. “Parents must a keep a watch on the Covid-recovered children,” he added.