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Photo Quiz: A 32-year-old male with a 2-month history of cough, fatigue, and weight loss

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Photo Quiz

(For answer and discussion, see page 3726 in this issue [doi:10.1128/JCM.r01126-11])

A 32-Year-Old Male with a 2-Month History of Cough, Fatigue, and Weight Loss



Fig. 1. Colonial morphology of the organism grown on Sabouraud dextrose agar.

A 32-year-old male presented with a 2-month history of productive cough (no hemoptysis), fatigue, and weight loss (10 lbs). He had a good appetite but became nauseated when eating, and with early satiety. He had been experiencing chills and fevers for approximately 1 month and also had a red, raised lesion on his nose. Two weeks prior to presentation, he had taken a 5-day course of oral azithromycin with no relief. The man was born in Vietnam but had lived in the United States for the past 12 years. He was unmarried and lived with his family, was employed as an industrial worker, and denied having had sexual activity during the past 5 years. He denied having used alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

Numerous laboratory and imaging studies were performed, including a chest computed tomography (CT) revealing pulmonary nodules and mediastinal and right hilar lymphadenopathy. Blood cultures drawn on admission (VersaTREK REDOX1 [aerobic bottles]) (TREK Diagnostic Systems, Cleveland, OH) became positive after 2 days of incubation with fungal elements

(delicate, septate hyphae). After approximately 4 to 5 days of incubation on solid medium, growth of a fungus with a diffusible red pigment was noted (Fig. 1).

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