

Título: ANTIFUNGAL SUSCEPTIBILITY PROFILE OF *Candida albicans* ORAL ISOLATED FROM IMMUNOCOMPROMISED AND IMMUNOCOMPETENT PACIENTS.

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Resumo

Fungal infections caused by *Candida* yeasts are increasingly common in immunosuppressed patients or those that have undergone special treatment cycles. These infections, mainly caused by *Candida albicans* species, increase patient length of stay, and cause high mortality. In immunocompromised individuals such as AIDS patients, oropharyngeal candidiasis is the most common opportunistic fungal infection. Various antifungal agents have been indicated in the treatment of oral candidiasis, however, the literature has demonstrated the occurrence of strains with decreased sensitivity or resistant in vivo and in vitro to certain chemotherapeutic drugs. Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare the sensitivity profiles of oral *C. albicans* isolates from AIDS patients and healthy individuals. *C. albicans* were isolate from the oral mucosa of 52 AIDS patients, treated at a hospital in Sao Luis city - MA. Volunteers with no clinical evidence of immunosuppression and negative for HIV attended the *Candida* spp collection of oral samples. The test sensitivity to antifungal agents used in the main therapy (itraconazole, fluconazole, nystatin) was made by the microdilution technique. Considering the general profile of the isolates tested from the test group (n = 23) and control group (n = 11), 94.2% were sensitive to fluconazole, 35.3% sensitive to itraconazole, 41.2% sensitive to nystatin. Most of oral *C. albicans* isolates were sensitive to fluconazole, itraconazole resistant and sensitive dose-dependent to nystatin. Fluconazole was shown to be an effective drug against oral isolates of *C. albicans*.

Key-words: *C. albicans*, antifungals, resistance

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