

**Title: *Candida* YEASTS IN A BRAZILIAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL: DISTRIBUTION AND ANTIFUNGAL SENSITIVITY PROFILE**

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**Abstract:**

There has been a considerable increase in fungal infections in hospitals in recent years, mainly in immunocompromised patients. *Candida* yeasts species are usually associated to nosocomial infections. Carry out an epidemiological study, recording the infection levels of this yeast, as well as the colonization and distribution of the different strains in clinical specimens from different sectors of the University Hospital and their susceptibility to antifungal drugs. The yeast samples were isolated from clinical specimens and medical equipment in different sectors of the hospital. The identification was reached phenotypically and genotypically. The sensitivity front of five antifungal agents was tested using the E-test®. Of these 100 isolates, 77% were characterized as colonization and 23% as nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections. *Candida albicans* was the most frequent (40%), followed by *C. tropicalis* (25%), *C. parapsilosis* (21%) and *C. glabrata* (0.9%). Non-*albicans* species accounted for 71.4% of the cases of colonization and 52.1% of infection. The ICUs had the largest number of positive samples (45%). Renal failure and multiple traumas were the most frequent underlying diseases. Antibiotic therapy and invasive procedures were the main risk factors. The presence of *Candida* yeast is still a frequent complication among patients admitted to tertiary hospitals. Epidemiological investigations of these agents in the hospital setting are very important, so that preventive measures may be taken against infections.

**Keywords:** *Candida*, hospital, antifungal sensitivity

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