

Título: ANTIFUNGAL SUSCEPTIBILITY PROFILE OF *Cryptococcus* ISOLATES FROM CUTANEOUS MYCOSES OF PATIENTS WITH HIV/AIDS.

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Resumo:

Dermatophyte infections are common in HIV-infected patients reaching over 90% of these patients at some stage of their evolution. Although cryptococcosis is considered an opportunistic infection of the central nervous system and lungs, extraneural and non-lung forms can be found, for example, cutaneous manifestations with/without apparent neurological disease. Antifungal profile studies about *Cryptococcus* are more related to clinical or environmental species of *C. neoformans*, whereas antimycotic tests for other clinically important species are poorly described. Therefore this study aimed to determine the antifungal susceptibility profile of *Cryptococcus* isolated from superficial lesions of patients with HIV / AIDS. Samples of cutaneous mycoses injuries were collected from 21 HIV / AIDS patients in the Getulio Vargas Hospital, in São Luís-MA. The test sensitivity to antifungal agents used in therapy (itraconazole, fluconazole, nystatin) was made by the microdilution technique. Among the 21 patients analyzed, two had *Cryptococcus laurentii* present in onychomycosis, primary superficial lesion found. In vitro susceptibility testing showed that samples were sensitive to fluconazole, sensitive dose-dependent to itraconazole and resistant to nystatin. Onychomycosis is probably the most frequent lesion in patients with HIV / AIDS. Normally fungi that affect these injuries are filamentous, followed by the yeast *Candida*. The presence of *Cryptococcus* in these lesions is rare. This study shows that *Cryptococcus laurentii* are more sensitive to azoles and resistant to polyenes antifungal, suggesting that therapies with fluconazole and itraconazole are more efficient.

Key-words: *Cryptococcus*, dermatophyte infections, antifungal susceptibility.

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