

## Frequency of Candida Species Isolated From Urine Cultures in Hospitalized Patients

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**Background & Objectives:** In recent years, different species of *Candida* are present as an important agent of nosocomial infection. The infections developed via these microorganisms are current causes of mortality in Intensive Care Unit (ICU); however, there is no proper protocol to characterize candiduria as a Urinary Tract Infections (UTI). Although *Candida albicans* are the most common pathogenic species, but non-*albicans* *Candida* due to drug resistance of some strains are considerable. Therefore, survey and determination of *Candida* strains are very important and the laboratories should take enough attention on this point.

**Methods:** In a retrospective study done in Tabriz Shahid Madani Heart Hospital during two years (2009-2010), the urine cultures results from 2566 hospitalized patients were studied for isolation of *Candida* species. Statistical analysis performed by SPSS vs. 16.0 and Excel software.

**Results:** four hundred seventy nine (18.7%) out of 2566 urine cultures, were positive for pathogenic microorganisms and 66 (13.8%) of them related to *Candida* species. Thirteen cases (19.7%) of this species were *Candida albicans* and the other species were reported as non-*albicans* *Candida*. Seventy two percent of positive cases isolated from females whereas 28% were related to males. The mean age of the patients were 59 years (SD=20.5).

**Conclusion:** Our results suggest a high frequency of non-*albicans* *Candida* species. Moreover, the risk of drug resistance in some above mentioned strains indicates that care and control must be performed on their species determination and drug susceptibility, but this issue has been ignored in this hospital.

**Keywords:** Candiduria; *Candida* Species; Nosocomial Infection; Urine Culture