

EVALUATION OF THE ANTIFUNGAL SUSCEPTIBILITY OF *CANDIDA* SPP. ISOLATED FROM THE HANDS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FROM A NEONATAL INTENSIVE THERAPY UNIT

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Yeasts of the genus *Candida* are commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract, but there has been an increase in the occurrence of invasive infection in critically ill neonates, which may be associated with several risk factors or predisposing factors, such as carrying yeasts through the hands of health professionals. Generally, treated fungal infections respond to therapy, however, knowing the sensitivity to antifungal agents of circulating yeasts in a health facility may contribute to the development of more specific protocols. The aim of the study was to verify the susceptibility of *Candida* spp. isolated from the hands of professionals from a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to the antifungal fluconazole, micafungin and amphotericin B. Fifty one isolates of *Candida* spp. from the hands of health professionals from the NICU of the Clinical Hospital of Uberlândia were studied. Twenty isolates of *C. parapsilosis*, seven of *C. albicans*, five of *C. lusitaniae*, five of *C. famata*, four of *C. metapsilosis*, three of *C. krusei*, two of *C. kefyr*, two of *C. Tropicalis*, one of *C. glabrata*, one of *C. guilliermondii* and one of *C. orthopsilosis*. The susceptibility tests were done by the microdilution method in broth, according to documents M27-A3-S3 (CLSI, 2008) and M27-S4 (CLSI, 2012). The antifungal drugs used were fluconazole, micafungin and amphotericin B. The study was approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Federal University of Uberlândia (CEP-UFU), protocol 989.139/2015. *C. krusei* and an isolate of *C. parapsilosis* were resistant to fluconazole; in addition, one isolate of *C. parapsilosis* and a *C. metapsilosis* showed dose-dependent sensitivity (SDD) to this drug. One isolate of *C. famata* and one of *C. glabrata* were resistant to micafugin. In relation to amphotericin B, an isolate of *C. lusitaniae* and a *C. glabrata* isolate presented resistance. All isolates of *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. guilliermondi* and *C. kefyr*, showed sensitivity to the antifungal tested. It was concluded that most of the isolates studied were sensitive to the antifungal agents tested.

Key words: *Candida* spp., NICU, susceptibility.

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