

TITLE: COMPARISON OF ANTIFUNGAL SENSITIVITY PROFILE OF *CRYPTOCOCCUS LAURENTII* ISOLATES FROM CUTANEOUS LESIONS OF PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH HIV/AIDS AT A PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN SÃO LUÍS – MA.

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ABSTRACT:

Cutaneous and systemic mycoses are among the major cause of morbidity and mortality among patients diagnosed with HIV / AIDS. Although cryptococcosis is considered an opportunistic infection of the nervous and respiratory systems, dermal forms may be manifested in immunosuppressed patients. The objective of this work was to determine the antifungal sensitivity profile of *Cryptococcus laurentii* isolates from skin lesions of patients diagnosed with HIV / AIDS. Immunological and epidemiological data, the prevalence of mycotic lesions and isolated microorganisms have also been reported. The isolated yeasts were identified by the VITEK automated system and the antifungal sensitivity test was performed by means of the plaque microdilution assay. Filamentous fungi were identified by microculture technique. Epidemiological and immunological data were obtained by analyzing medical records. Forty-five percent of the patients had HIV and 22.7% had AIDS. The highest frequency was those with viral load <1000 copies/mL (38.6%) and the number of CD4 (+) T-cells ranged from 94 to 845 cells/mm³; 35% were male and 22.2% female with an age range of 22-81 years. Most had less than eight years of study. The most prevalent lesion was onychomycosis and filamentous fungi were the most isolated microorganisms. Among the yeasts, 26% of *Candida* spp. and 4% of *Cryptococcus* spp. were isolated. *C. laurentii* isolates were sensitive to fluconazole but dose-dependent to itraconazole and resistant to nystatin and amphotericin B. These results are relevant because they show the need for a prompt identification of the microorganisms and sensitivity test for a more adequate and efficient therapy.

Keywords: *Cryptococcus*; Cutaneous mycoses; Sensitivity profile; Antifungals; HIV/AIDS