

**TITLE:** EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ETIOLOGY OF CANDIDEMIA EPISODES IN THE INTENSIVE THERAPY UNIT OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN RECIFE – PE, CITY.

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**ABSTRACT:**

Candidemia is a fungal infection of the bloodstream caused by yeast species of the genus *Candida*. These yeasts for the most part are considered opportunistic pathogens and often isolated from the mucosal surfaces of healthy individuals without producing signs of disease under normal physiological conditions. However after some physiological or immunological changes these microorganisms start to cause diseases that vary from superficial manifestations deep and opportunistic behavior. Thus, in the context of hospitalized patients, especially those hospitalized in Intensive Care Units (ICUs), these infections represent almost 90% of IRAS (Health Care Related Infection), considerably increasing the mortality rates of these individuals. Hemoculture is still considered the gold standard for diagnosis, however, techniques more precise contribute to the confirmation of the most efficient result. The aim of this study was to carry out an epidemiological survey of candidemia cases in patients admitted to the ICU of a public hospital in the Recife, PE city. A survey was performed by analyzing the charts of patients admitted to the ICU from August 2016 through December 2016 of the referred hospital. From these records, information was collected regarding the microbiological profile of the patient, especially if the reason for hospitalization or stay in the ICU was related to some type of fungal infection of bloodstream contracted at some time of hospitalization. After analyzing 50 records, we obtained a return of 30 patients presenting *Candida* spp., *Candida albicans* (12), *C. tropicalis* (10), Complex *C. parapsilosis* (5), *Cryptococcus neoformans* (2) and *C. glabrata* (1), respectively. *C. albicans* and *C. tropicalis* were the most frequently isolated yeasts. However, the emergence of emerging species, as well as resistance to commercially available antifungal agents, has contributed to the change in this epidemiological profile; As well as other factors such as immunosuppression, central venous catheter use and especially the prolonged hospitalization time in the ICUs. Faced with this problem, it is necessary to know the epidemiological profile of a particular hospital unit, facilitating the treatment and contributing to better prognosis of the patient.

**Keywords:** Candidemia; *Candida albicans*; UTI.

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