

Drug susceptibility and enzymatic activity of *Candida* isolated from mobile phone and hand surfaces

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A- Conception and study design; B - Collection of data; C - Data analysis; D - Writing the paper; E- Review article; F - Approval of the final version of the article; G - Other

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Evaluation of the susceptibility of isolated fungi as well as the type and activity of enzymes they release allows determining their pathogenicity.

Purpose: To assess potential correlations between drug susceptibility and enzymatic activity of strains isolated from mobile phone and hand surfaces

Materials and methods: The mycological evaluation included 175 mobile phones and 175 hands of the phone owners. Drug susceptibility was assessed using the FUNGITEST; enzymatic activity was evaluated using the API ZYM test.

Results: We found significant correlations between increased resistance to 5-fluorocytosine, ketoconazole, fluconazole and higher activity of six selected enzymes for *Candida glabrata* strains isolated from hand surfaces. We also found significant correlations between increased resistance to 5-fluorocytosine, ketoconazole,

miconazole, itraconazole and higher activity of six selected enzymes for *Candida albicans* strains isolated from hand surfaces. We found significant correlations between increased resistance to 5-fluorocytosine, ketoconazole, itraconazole, fluconazole and higher activity of six selected enzymes for *Candida krusei* strains isolated from hand surfaces as well as an increased resistance to 5-fluorocytosine, ketoconazole, itraconazole, fluconazole and higher activity of five selected enzymes for strains isolated from phone surfaces.

Conclusions: We found varying correlations between enzymatic activity and drug resistance depending on the site of isolation and the species/genus of fungi. The drugs to which the evaluated strains showed resistance were the same for hand and mobile phone isolates.

Keywords: *Candida*, Fungitest, API ZYM, hands, mobile telephones

DOI: 10.5604/01.3001.0010.5716