

# **LAB DIAGNOSIS OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS**

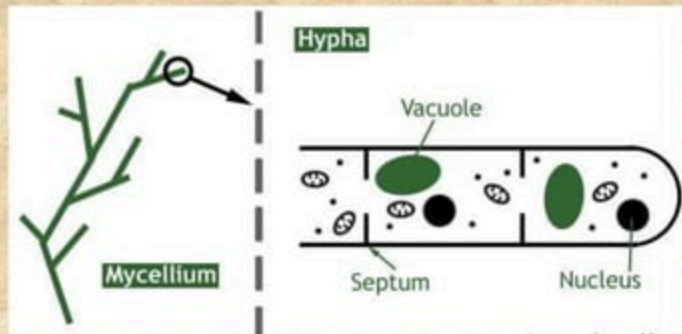
**DR NAVEEN KUMAR  
II MDS, OMFP**

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# INTRODUCTION

- Word Fungus
- Mycology
- Eukaryotic
- Rigid cell wall
- Cell membrane
- yeast/molds
- hypha
- mycelium
- Reproduction



# CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI

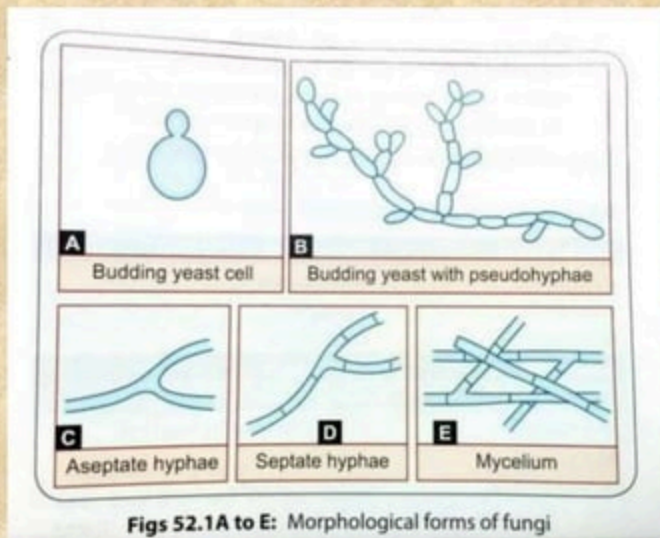
Based on morphology

1. Yeast

2. Yeast-like

3. Molds

4. Dimorphic fungi



# CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGAL DISEASES

- Superficial mycoses
- Subcutaneous mycoses
- Systemic mycoses
- Opportunistic mycoses

# COMMON ORAL INFECTIONS

- CANDIDIASIS
- ASPERGILLOSIS
- BLASTOMYCOSIS
- COCCIDIOMYCOSIS
- HISTOPLASMOSIS
- MUCORMYCOSIS

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT

Acc to Epstein and Pearsall et al. guidelines for specimen collection are

- Specimen should be collected from active lesion. Old burn out lesions don't contain viable organisms
- Specimen should be collected under aseptic conditions
- Collect sufficient specimen
- Use sterile collection devices and containers
- Specimen should be labelled appropriately

## Methods of specimen collection

- Imprint
- Swab
- Impression
- Oral rinse
- Expectoration
- Paper points
- Smear





# FUNGAL STAINS

## WET PREPARATIONS

- KOH mount
- India ink stain
- Nigrosin stain
- Calcoflour white stain
- Lactophenol Cotton blue
- Neutral RED stain

## DIFFERENTIAL STAINS

- Grams stain
- H and E stain
- Giemsa
- PAS
- Gomori's methamine stain
- Acridine orange stain
- Fluorescent antibody staining

# WET PREPARATIONS

## KOH wet Mount

KOH 20 g

Glycerol 120 ml

Distilled water 80 ml

Dissolves protein debris

Addition of Glycerol

Slide is placed under

Brown walled hyphae and yeasts

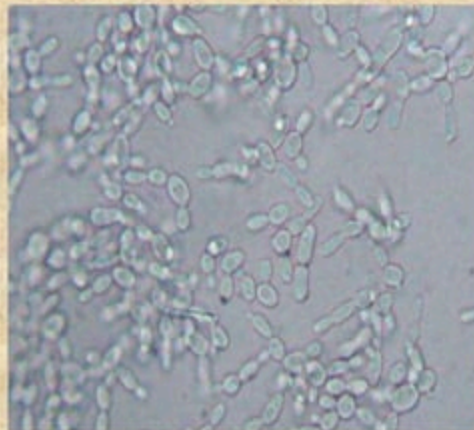
Adv-

Dis adv-

Occasionally mixed with 10%

KOH- Yeasts, hyphae &

pseudohyphae are readily distinguished from background



CANDIDA

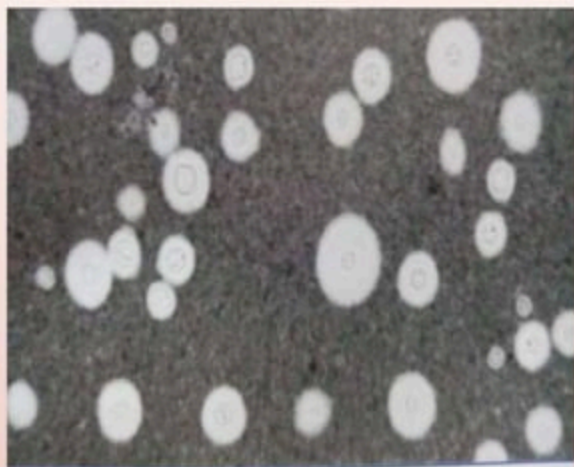
**INDIA INK STAIN  
(Negative stain)**

India ink 150 ml  
Merthiolate 3ml  
Tween 80 0.1 ml

Polysaccharide capsule  
repels opaque medium  
Distinct halo

As it is a negative stain

Ink should be free from



**NIGROSIN STAIN**

Nigrosin granules  
10g  
Formalin 100ml

Shelf life 1 yr

Irregular, encapsulated, spherical yeast cells

Calcofluor White Stain

Water soluble  
Selectively binds to  
cellulose and chitin

Calcofluor white 100mg

Evans blue 50mg

Distilled water 100ml

Superior to KOH

Evans blue-↓non specific  
background florescence  
Light blue florescence

Long UV and short visible  
Light source-  
Quartz halogen/mercury  
vapor lamp



Calcofluor white stained *Candida albicans* showing true hyphae (\*) and pseudohyphae (+).  
Citation: Journal of Oral Microbiology 2011, 3: 5771

### LACTOPHENOL COTTON BLUE

Lactic acid 20 ml  
Glycerol 40ml  
Cotton blue 0.05gm  
Distilled water 20 ml  
Phenol 22ml

Stains outer wall of fungus  
Morphological features of fungal isolates

### NEUTRAL RED STAIN

Water soluble dye  
Through plasma membrane and stored in lysosome  
  
Evaluation of Viability

# DIFFERENTIAL STAINS

Grams stain

Gram positive

Crystal violet

Take up crystal Violet

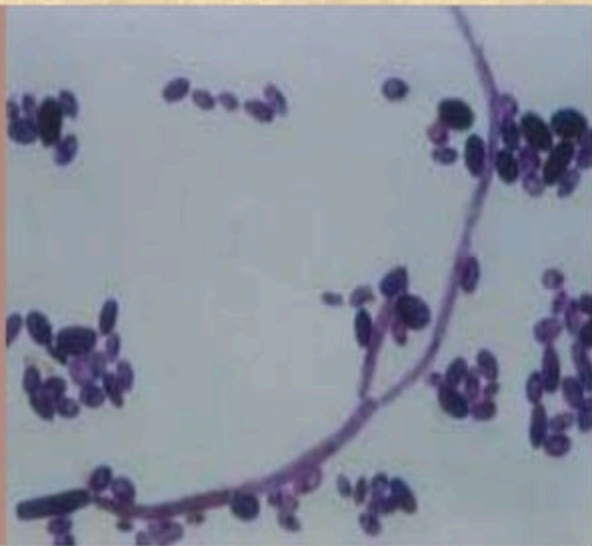
Grams iodine

Acetone/95%ethanol

Yeasts –more darker

0.5%safronine

Well stained  
morphology



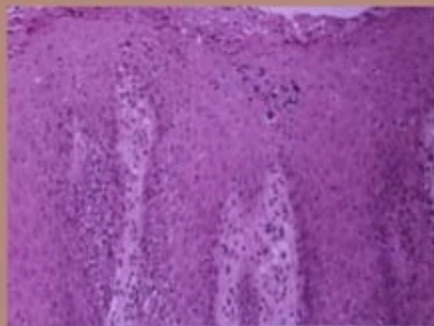
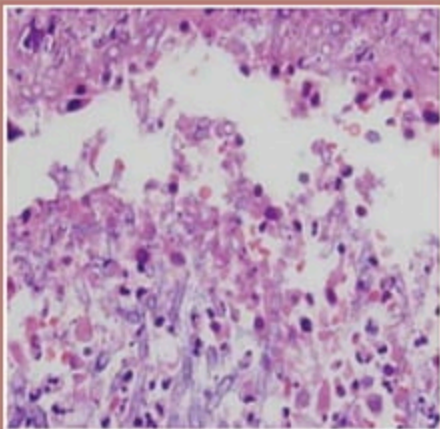
CANDIDA

## H&E

Hematoxyllin 5g  
Ethyl alcohol 50ml  
alum 100g  
eosin 1%

Does not disclose and distinguish  
fungal elements easily  
small numbers-not located  
Host response

RBC-Orange  
Collagen, nerve ,amyloid-pink  
Muscle, elastin , fibrin-bright red  
Nuclei, RNA, Ca salts, bacteria-  
blue



## GIEMSA

Compound stain-methylene blue and eosin  
Intracellular yeast cells

Nuclei-purple  
Cytoplasm-blue  
RBC-Pink

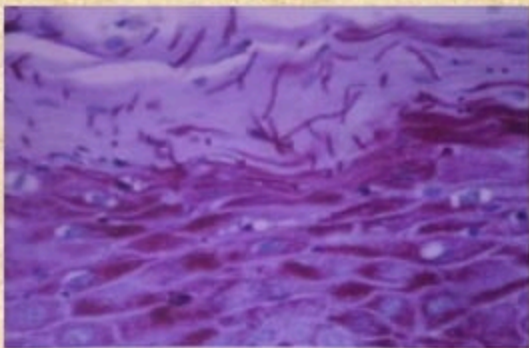


## PAS STAIN

1% Aqueous periodic acid  
Basic fuchsin 1g  
Sod.meta bi sulphate 2g  
Conc.HCL 2ml

Nuceli -blue  
Fungi-magenta red

For better result -



Candida-Tubular hyphae in parakeratin layer



Candida-Tubular fungal hyphae and ovoid yeasts

**GOMORI-  
METHENAMINE  
SILVER STAIN**

Methanamic silver nitrate solution

Distilled water 50 ml

Chromic acid 5%

Sodium thiosulphate

Alcohol,xylene,Gold chloride

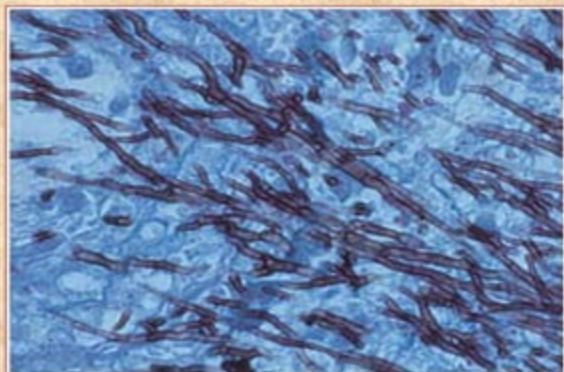
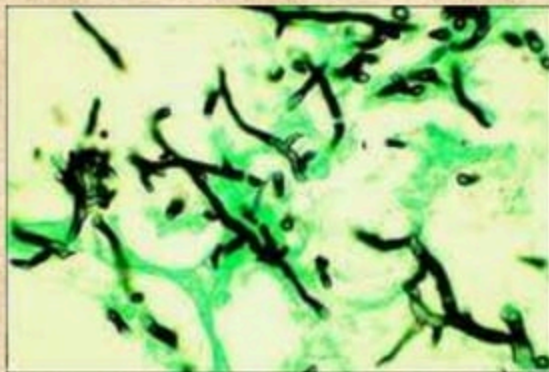
Tendolakar & colleagues

Deposition of reduced silver

Fungi- brown to black

Mucopolysaccharide-dark grey

Tissue-pale green



## ACRIDINE ORANGE

Affinity for nucleic acids-RNA,DNA

Bacteria and yeast – bright orange

WBC- pale apple green

RBC- may not stain or stain pale green

## FLUORESCENT ANTIBODY STAINING

Tissue section or pus where organism is scanty(systemic infections)

Detects fungal antigen in smear and section

Antibody coated fungi can be demonstrated

# FUNGAL CULTURE

- Basal Media
- Nutritional deficient media
- Enriched and selective media
- Differential agar media
- Media for stimulation of Ascospores
- Media used for biochemical tests

# Basal Media

SABOURAUD DEXTROSE AGAR /SGA

pH -5.6

Peptone 10g

Dextrose 40g

Agar 20g

Distilled water 1000ml

Commonly used

Primary isolation

NEUTRAL SDA

pH-6.8-7

neopeptone 10g

Dextrose 20g

Agar 20g

Distilled water 1000ml

SDA+ANTIBIOTICS

SDA+

Cycloheximide 500mg

Chloramphenicol 50mg

Gentamicin 20mg

Avoid bacterial contamination

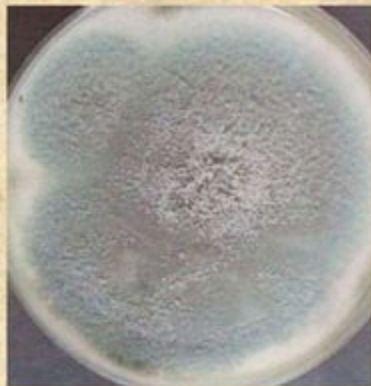
CANDIDA



BLASTOMYCOSIS-wavy



ASPERGILLOSIS-,dryPowdery colonies



# Nutritional deficient media

CORN MEAL AGAR/CORN  
MEAL TWEEN AGAR

Corn meal 8g/zein 40g/100ml  
Tween80 2g  
Agar 4g  
Distilled water 200ml  
Large, highly refractile, thick walled

RICE STARCH AGAR(RSA)

Cream of rice 4g  
Tween80 2g  
Agar 4g  
Distilled water 200ml  
pH 6.2



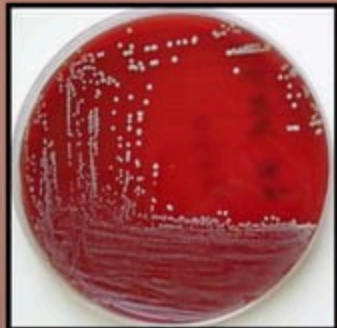
# Enriched and selective media

## BLOOD AGAR

Agar base 40g  
Sheep blood 50ml  
Distilled water 1000ml

*Histoplasma capsulatum*  
*Blastomyces dermatitides*  
*Cryptococcus neoformans*

*Candida*-moist opaque colonies



## BRAIN HEART INFUSION AGAR

Brain heart infusion 37g  
Glucose 20g  
L-cysteine HCL 1g  
Agar 20g  
Distilled water 900g

Antibiotics  
pH 6.7



**BIRD SEED AGAR/  
NIGER SEED AGAR**

Niger seed extract 200 ml  
Glucose 1g  
Chloramphenicol 400mg  
Gentamicin 25mg  
Diphenyl solution 10ml  
Agar 20g  
Distilled water 800 ml

Primary isolation of  
*Cryptococcus neoformans*

**CHOCOLATE AGAR**

*Candida* appear as – yellow  
white colonies

**Sun flower seed agar  
PAL 'S MEDIUM**

Pulverised sunflower seed 45g  
Chloramphenicol 100mg  
Agar 20 g  
Distilled water 1000ml

*Cryptococcus neoformans*  
Light to dark brown colored  
colonies

Czapek-Dox agar

NaNO<sub>3</sub> 3g

K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> 1g

KCl 0.5g

MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O 0.5g

FeSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O 0.01g

Sucrose 30g

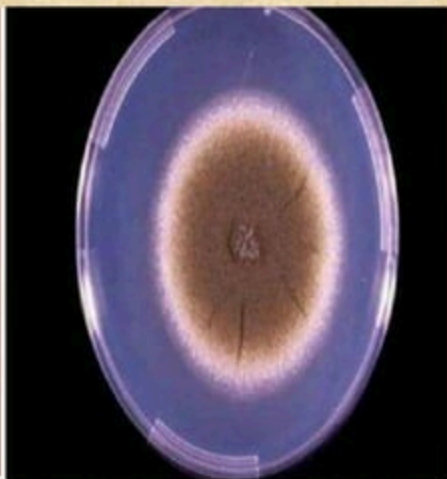
Agar 15g

Distilled water 1000 ml

*Aspergillus* sps

Granular flat colonies

Radial grooves



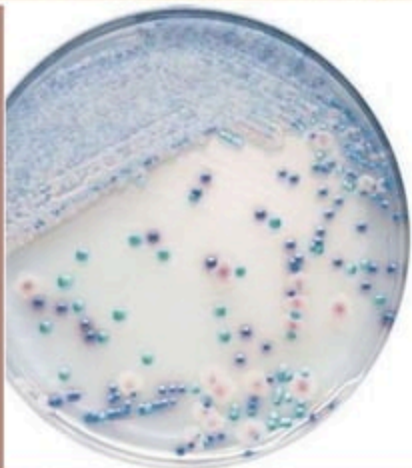
# Differential media

## CHROMAGAR

Ph-

Presumptive identification  
Direct detection of enzymatic activity  
Fluorochromes are added  
Multiple species in a specimen

*C.albicans* –light green  
*C.tropicalis*-blue,pink halo  
*C.Parapsilosis*-cream  
*C.Krusei*-pink  
*C.Glabrata*-purple  
*C.dubliensis*-dark blue



Biggy agar :

Bismuth sulfite, glucose, glycine

c. albicans-

c. krusei-

c. tropicalis-

## Pagano Levin agar

- Peptic digest – 10g/l, yeast extract – 1 gm, dextrose- 40gm, agar- 15gm
- Ph- 6.2
- Distinguishes candida sps based on ability to reduce triphenyl tetrazolium chloride
- *C. albicans*- cream to light pink
- *C. parapsilosis*- red to maroon
- *C. tropicalis* – red to marron
- *C. krusei* – white to cream spreading type of colonies

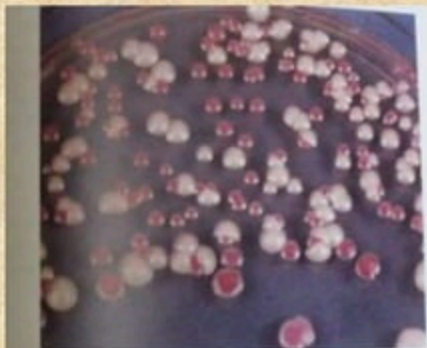


Fig. 22.3 *Candida albicans* and *C. tropicalis* growing side by side on a special medium (Pagano-Levin agar) which elicits differential colour reactions. Mixed oral candidal infections are not uncommon.

# Media used for biochemical tests

## TETRAZOLIUM REDUCTION MEDIUM

Peptone 1g  
Glucose 4g  
Beef extract 0.1g  
Tetrazolium 20mg  
Neomycin 50mg  
Distilled water 100ml  
pH5.6-6.2

Tetrazolium is reduced in  
different gradients

C.albicans –pale pink  
C.tropicalis –orange pink  
C.Parapsilosis-rose pink  
C.Krusei-pink,dry  
C.Glabrata-pale pink

Carbohydrate assimilation  
Media

Sugar disk 4%  
KNO<sub>3</sub> disk 1%  
Yeast nitrogen base 1.17%  
Yeast carbon base 6.7%

Carbohydrate free medium  
Filter paper disks  
Growth around disc  
Utilization is determined

Carbohydrate  
fermentation test can be

UREASE TEST

Urea base 29g  
Agar 15g  
Distilled water 1000 ml  
Phenol red indicator

Ability to produce urease  
enzyme

Urea to ammonia  
Amber to pinkish red  
Cryptococcus urease +ve  
Candida urease -ve

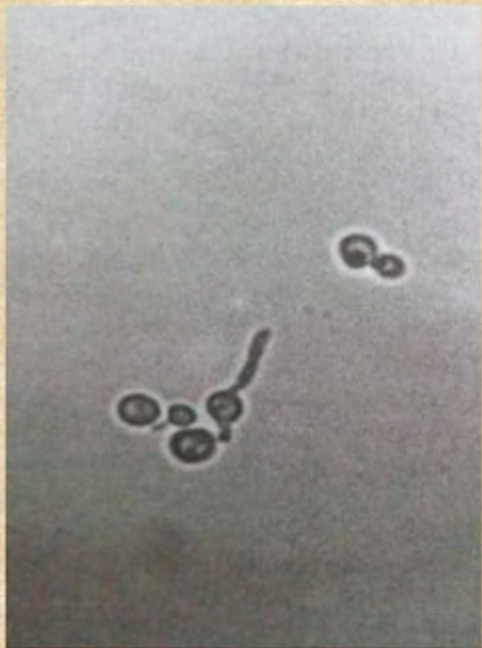
Rapid urease test

Christensen urea base  
1% benzalkonium chloride

Urea to ammonia  
Yellow to purple  
Cryptococcus

# GERM TUBE TEST

- Presumptive identification of candida albicans
- Reynaulds-braude phenomenon
- 5%-C.albicans negative, false positives
- Additional tests
- Human/sheep serum, incubated 2 hrs
- Long tube like process





## SEROLOGICAL TESTS

- Monoclonal antibodies(MAB) are developed against mycelial cell wall protein.
- They react specifically in gel immunodiffusion test.
- Intraspecies antigenic relation ship can be elucidated

FUNGI	SPECIFIC ANTIGEN
H.capsulatum	H,M
B.dermatitidis	A

# Skin tests

- Exposure and sensitization of individual to organism
- Fungal antigen injected → hypersensitivity reactions
- Epidemiological studies
- Histoplasmosis, Candidiasis, Coccidioidomycosis, Blastomycosis.
- Aspergillus-false positive results

# MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES

- PCR –genome DNA is amplified and sequence typing is done
  - Shorter period
  - Genetic markers
- RFLP (or Restriction fragment length polymorphism)
- AFLP (or Amplified fragment length polymorphism)

# ARTEFACTS

- KOH-crystals
- pollen, wbc, glove powder, fabric-fungi
- silver stained elastin

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