

**A study on candida species isolated from women with vaginal candidiasis  
and their susceptibility to chemotherapeutic agents**

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The aims of this study were to determine, the prevalence of vaginal candidiasis (VC), identify its etiologies and their susceptibility patterns among women seeking primary health care for genital infections in Temeke Municipal Hospitals in Dar es Salaam, from March, 1998 to August, 2002. High vaginal swabs were taken from every third woman attending antenatal clinics and every woman attending STD clinics with symptoms of vaginal discharge. The swabs were investigated for Candida species, N. gonorrhoea, T. vaginalis and bacterial vaginosis. The species of Candida isolates were identified by germ tube production, cultural characteristics, sugar assimilation and by Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA finger printing (RAPD). Susceptibility patterns of Candida species against clotrimazole, ketoconazole, miconazole and nystatin were determined by disk diffusion method and their minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) were determined using broth microdilution, agar dilution and agar diffusion methods. A total of 464 women were studied. The prevalence of bacterial vaginosis, VC, HIV, trichomoniasis, syphilis and gonorrhoea were 48.4%, 45%, 22%, 9.3%, 4.3% and 1.5% respectively. The frequencies of Candida species were C. albicans 63.3 % and non albicans 33.7%. The agreement between the three methods was good being on average >88 VC is highly prevalent among women seeking primary health care for genital infections in Dar es Salaam. Our preliminary data seems to favour primary data seems to favour nystatin over azoles in the treatment of VC. In conclusion the result of this research will be helpful in making strategies on management of VC an infection disturbing management of VC an infection disturbing a lot of women in the country.