

## 16. A comparative study of candida albicans colonization in pre-insertion and post-insertion of complete denture prosthesis at different time periods: an in-vivo study

Nagaraj E

PMNM Dental College, Bagalkot

A considerable proportion of population carries a detectable numbers of yeast in mouth; very few suffer from candida infection. Due to reduced reflexes many complete denture wearers find difficulty in maintaining denture hygiene. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the number of candida albicans colonies at varying time periods and its relation to denture hygiene. Twenty completely edentulous patients who reported for replacement of lost teeth with complete dentures were selected. Samples were collected from palatal mucosa during the first visit and from palatal mucosa and corresponding tissue surface of denture in 2nd, 4th and 6th months of post-insertion periods. They were inoculated into Sabouraud's dextrose agar medium incubated at 37 degree celsius for 24 hrs. Colonies were identified and counted. Based on complete denture cleanliness as detected by plaque disclosing agents, subjects were categorized into three groups as excellent, fair and poor. Increased number of colonies was seen in all three categories of patients both in palatal mucosa and tissue surface of dentures. It is necessary to make patients and relatives become aware of the importance of denture hygiene and its practice under assistance and supervision by a prosthodontist once in 2 months.

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