

THE STUDY OF YEAST-LIKE FUNGI ON THE ORAL MUCOSA OF PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME

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Topicality. The frequency of yeast-like fungus colonization of oral mucosa (OM) in patients with Sjögren's syndrome constitutes $40.0 \pm 1.63\%$. Fungi are detected on the mucous membrane of the tongue more often ($36.7 \pm 1.61\%$) than on the mucous membrane of the gums ($23.3 \pm 1.41\%$).

The research objective was to study the level of candida colonization of various OM areas in patients with Sjögren's syndrome.

Materials and methods of the research. 30 patients with Sjögren's syndrome associated with rheumatoid arthritis underwent our observation. The comparison group included 15 apparently healthy individuals. The microscopic method was applied to search for pseudomycelium and some candida cells in impression smears from different OM areas, namely gums, tongue, and cheeks. Impression smears were stained according to the Romanovsky method. The samples were collected with a sterile cotton ball from tongue and gums mucosa with an area of 1 cm^2 separated by a special stencil. The cotton ball was placed in a test tube with 1.0 ml of a sterile normal saline solution where the selected mucus was carefully resuspended. Fungus cultures were separated on chromogenic medium ChromID Candida (bioMerieux, France). The final identification of yeast-like fungus cultures was conducted on the basis of 40 biochemical tests with the use of VITEK 2 system using VITEK 2 YST ID card (bioMerieux, France).

Results of the research and their discussion. In oral mucosa of the patients with Sjögren's syndrome, we identified 14 strains ($56.0 \pm 1.98\%$) of *Candida albicans* (10 patients). Three strains of *C. kefyr* (*Kluyveromyces marxianus*) were isolated from 2 patients ($12.0 \pm 1.30\%$), two strains of *C. lipolytica* (*Yarrowia lipolytica*) were isolated from 2 patients ($8.0 \pm 1.09\%$). One strain of *C. tropicalis* ($4.0 \pm 0.78\%$) and two strains of *Cryptococcus laurentii* were isolated from different biotopes of the same patient ($8.0 \pm 1.09\%$). Four strains of *C. lusitaniae* were isolated from 3 patients ($16.0 \pm 1.47\%$). It should be noted that we detected certain species of yeast-like fungi (in particular, *C. lusitaniae*, *C. lipolytica*, *C. laurentii*) on OM of the patients with Sjögren's syndrome for the first time.

Conclusions. 1. The frequency of yeast-like fungus colonization of oral mucosa (OM) in patients with Sjögren's syndrome constitutes $40.0 \pm 1.63\%$.

2. Some species of yeast-like fungi (*C. lusitaniae*, *C. lipolytica*, *C. laurentii*) were detected on OM of the patients with Sjögren's syndrome for the first time.