

Identification of local clinical *Candida* isolates using CHROMagar *Candida* TM as a primary identification method for various *Candida* species.

ABSTRACT

The objective of our study was to study the effectiveness of CHROMagar *Candida* TM as the primary identification method for various clinical *Candida* isolates, other than the three suggested species by the manufacturer. We studied 34 clinical isolates which were isolated from patients in a local teaching hospital and 7 ATCC strains. These strains were first cultured in Sabouraud dextrose broth (SDB) for 36 hours at 35°C, then on CHROMagar plates at 30°C, 35°C and 37°C. The sensitivity of this agar to identify *Candida albicans*, *Candida dubliniensis*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida glabrata*, *Candida rugosa*, *Candida krusei* and *Candida parapsilosis* ranged between 25 and 100% at 30°C, 14% and 100% at 35°C, 56% and 100% at 37°C. The specificity of this agar was 100% at 30°C, between 97% and 100% at 35°C, 92% and 100% at 37°C. The efficiency of this agar ranged between 88 and 100% at 30°C, 83% and 100% at 35°C, 88% and 100% at 37°C. Each species also gave rise to a variety of colony colours ranging from pink to green to blue of different colony characteristics. Therefore, the chromogenic agar was found to be useful in our study for identifying clinical *Candida* isolates.

Keyword: Andidiasis; Culture Media; Humans; Microbiological techniques; Sensitivity and specificity; Temperature.