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Volume 12, Issue 2, May-August 2014, Pages 227-235Gaining more insight into the determinants of *Candida* species pathogenicity in the oral cavity (Review)Arzmi, M.H.^{ab}, Alshwaimi, E.^c, Wan Harun, W.H.A.^d, Abdul Razak, F.^d, Farina, F.^{ef}, McCullough, M.J.^a, Cirillo, N.^{af} ^aMelbourne Dental School, Oral Health CRC, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia^bDepartment of Basic Medical Sciences, Kulliyah of Dentistry, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia^cDepartment of Restorative Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia[View additional affiliations](#) 

Abstract

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Candida infection (candidiasis) is potentially life threatening and can occur in almost all anatomical sites, including the mouth. *Candida* species are in fact the most common fungal pathogens isolated from the oral cavity and frequently cause superficial infections such as oral candidiasis and denture-associated erythematous stomatitis. Whilst systemic dissemination of *Candida* from intraoral foci is rare and largely due to severe deficits of the host immune defenses, the development of localized oral candidiasis is most commonly related to a variety of non-immune determinants such as *Candida* virulence factors and permissive oral microenvironment. In particular, phenotypic switching and dental biofilm have emerged as major determinants for the pathogenicity of *Candida* and are currently the subject of intense research. An understanding of the molecular aspects underlying the biological behavior of *Candida* will be the key to the development of effective preventive as well as therapeutic measures for invasive and oral candidiasis. Copyright © by BIOLIFE, s.a.s.

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