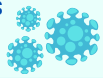


Fungus out of control Candidiasis

Project-Based Learning



¿What is Candidiasis?

Candidiasis is a fungal infection, commonly caused by the yeast *Candida albicans*, characterized by an overgrowth of this fungus in moist areas of the body such as the vagina, mouth, skin, and intestines.

Pathogen: *Candida albicans* fungus.

Incidence in Chile: More than 300,000 people in the year.

Symptoms:

Symptoms vary, but the most common in women are: itching and irritation of the vagina and the tissues surrounding the vaginal opening, called the vulva. A burning sensation during sexual intercourse or urination.

In men, this includes redness, itching, or burning of the penis, especially the glans or under the foreskin. There may also be moist skin, white or shiny areas, and, in some cases, a lumpy discharge.

It can also cause symptoms in a newborn or in the days following delivery. Some common symptoms include hepatomegaly (enlarged liver), jaundice, lymphadenopathy, petechiae or purpura, vesicles, maculopapular rash, hydrocephalus or microcephaly, and encephalitis.

(Forum demonstration of tongue disease.)



Forms of Contagio:

Transmission routes include: sexual contact with an infected person or contact with contaminated objects, such as towels or bathing suits, taking antibiotics, or having a weakened immune system. It can also be transmitted during childbirth, through which the mother can transmit the *Candida* fungus to her child. In most cases, it is not transmitted through blood.

(Forum demonstration of pain in the vaginal area.)



Treatment:

Treatment for candidiasis depends on its location and severity, but generally involves the use of antifungal medications.

In mild cases, vaginal creams or suppositories can be used, while more severe cases may require oral fluconazole or other antifungals.

The infection clears up within a few days with proper treatment, so candidiasis CAN be cured.

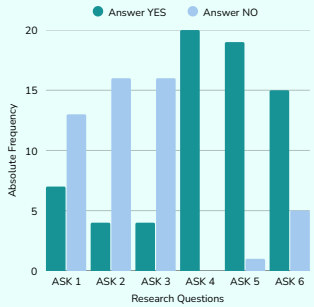
(Back-disease demonstration forum.)



Data representation:

Questions: 1. Do you know the symptoms of candidiasis? 2. Do you know the medical treatment for candidiasis? 3. Do all STIs have visible symptoms? 4. Is it important to consult a doctor if you suspect an STI? 5. Can STIs affect both men and women? 6. Can you have an STI infection and not know it?

VARIABLE	Answer YES	Answer NO
ASK 1	7	13
ASK 2	4	16
ASK 3	4	16
ASK 4	20	
ASK 5	19	1
ASK 6	15	5



Analysis: As can be seen in the graph, most people surveyed do not have a great deal of knowledge on the subject. So, questions 1 and 2 demonstrate this theory. But questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 demonstrate that most people know that they should see a doctor in these situations.

How to prevent it:

To prevent candidiasis, it is essential to keep the genital area clean and dry, wear loose cotton underwear, and avoid using perfumed products in the vaginal area. It is also recommended to avoid douching, consume yogurt with live cultures or *Lactobacillus acidophilus* supplements, and use condoms to prevent other infections. To prevent it during childbirth, it is essential to maintain genital hygiene and can also be achieved with antifungal treatment.



(Forum demonstration of tongue disease and a normal one.)

Possible complications:

Complications of candidiasis can vary depending on the location of the infection and the person's overall health. Candidiasis is generally not serious in healthy people, but it can become invasive and affect other organs in people with weakened immune systems.



(Forum demonstration of skin disease.)

Names: Florencia Arbiato, Matías Fuenzalida, Mateo Méndez, and Yhasna Vejar.
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