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Prevalence of *Candida* spp. in Endocervical, Vaginal and Urine Samples of Reproductive Women and In-Vitro Susceptibility Pattern of the Isolates

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Vulvo-vaginal candidiasis (VVC) is an inflammatory condition of female genital tract and most encountered problem that affects a large fraction of women in a population caused by different species of the genus *Candida*. This study aimed to assess the prevalence of *Candida* spp. in the endocervical, vaginal and urine sample of patients treated at the university hospital in the Philippines and to evaluate the in-vitro sensitivities of the isolated *Candida* species to four commonly used antifungal agents. Samples were taken from consenting patients of gynecology clinics and isolates were identified using phenotypic and biochemical tests. Susceptibility analysis was performed using Kirby Bauer Method. Of the 86 patients, the prevalence of *Candida* spp was isolated in 37.2% (n=32) corresponding to a prevalence of approximately 59.36% (n=19) for VVC and 40.63% (n=13) colonization. More than 46.87% (n=15) of the isolates were identified as *Candida albicans*; *C. non-albicans* was isolated at a rate of 12.5% (n=4) in symptomatic patients and 9.37% (n=3) *C. albicans* and 31.23% (n=10) non *albicans* in asymptomatic patients. The prevalence of resistance against itraconazole, ketonazole, fluconazole and nystatin, were 16.66%, 43.75%, 29.16% and 5.20% respectively. The high rate of resistance to triazoles (ketonazole and fluconazole) observed in this study suggests that antifungal prescription should be only given once the proper identification of the *Candida* species has been performed. Furthermore, improperly prescribed antifungal agents may lead to drug resistant.