

3427 Yeast within supra-gingival plaque in Sjögren's syndrome patients

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Sjögren's syndrome (SS) patients are prone to oral candidal infection as a consequence of hyposalivation. Objectives: To investigate oral yeast colonization in supra-gingival plaque of Chinese SS patients and to compare the genotypic profile of yeast collected from oral rinse and plaque samples. Methods: 52 SS patients (50 females and 2 males with a mean age of 46.5 [SD 12.9] years; 25 primary SS, [pSS] and 27 secondary cases, [sSS] and 29 matched controls with a mean age of 43.9 [SD 10.7] years were recruited from Queen Mary and Prince Philip Dental Hospitals, the University of Hong Kong. Selective culture of oral rinse and supra-gingival plaque samples was carried out to isolate, quantify, and speciate yeast recovery using API kits. Yeast strains which yielded identical API profiles were subjected to chromosomal analysis by PFGE. Data were analyzed using Chi-squared/Kruskal-Wallis tests. Results: Samples from 72% pSS, 41% sSS showed positive yeasts isolation in both samples whereas none occurred in controls. The mean yeast counts obtained from plaque samples of pSS, sSS and controls were 1.8×10^6 , 4.3×10^5 and 0 cfu respectively, ($P < 0.001$). Thirty yeast pairs were isolated of which 26 (16 from pSS, 10 from sSS) were *C. albicans*. Twenty two (14 from pSS, 8 from sSS) and 10 (7 from pSS, 3 from sSS) pairs of *C. albicans* had $S_{AB} \geq 0.85$ and $S_{AB} = 1$ respectively ($P < 0.001$ and $P = 0.008$ respectively). They fell into 5 different PFGE karyotype clusters. Conclusions: Chinese SS patients were prone to oral *Candida*. *Candida* species were also found established in the supra-gingival plaque of many of the SS subjects. Supported by CRCG-HKU.

[Seq #364 - Candida](#)

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