



## NEQAMM 2005 – 1

(Nordic External Quality Assessment Program in Medical Mycology)

This Quality Control applies to 5 countries: Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. Medical microbiology laboratories were given five specimens to analyse on a routine basis explaining the media used for primary plating and the susceptibility tests performed. Here are presented its most interesting insights.

❶ During the last decades, the importance of medical mycology has raised due to increasing advances and complexity of medical treatment. *Candida sp* now accounts for approximately **8-10%** of **positive blood cultures**.

❷ Sabouraud media are the most used before chromogenic ones. Even if these last media are used by many laboratories, few ones rely on the colour produced to identify *C. albicans* and include additional tests.

❸ The challenge for the clinician is to **choose** an adequate antifungal treatment when treating critically ill patients with a *Candida* infection. The challenge for the microbiologist is to select a system for yeast identification that is both **rapid** and **accurate**.

The median time for both **identification and susceptibility** testing is **quite long**: 4-5 days. Some laboratories are able to shorten this time considerably. This must be the aim for all and should be facilitated by the introduction of **rapid tests**. The use of rapid tests would make possible to report the **identification** of the most important species **the same day as the yeast is isolated**.

❹ The five more prevalent *Candida* species are: *C. albicans* 63-70%, *C. glabrata* 12-20%, *C. tropicalis* 4-7%, *C. parapsilosis* 4-6% and *C. krusei* 1-3%. It would be a great advantage if all laboratories receiving clinical specimens were able to identify these species.

Recommendations:

- to identify important yeast isolates to **species level** as rapidly as possible with **rapid tests**
- to identify yeast isolates from **invasive infections** to **species level**

### **The "Fumouze Diagnostics" offer:**

Reliable and **rapid** identification methods for the most frequent species **the same day** as the yeast is isolated:

- *C. albicans* → **Bichro-Latex Albicans** and **Bichro-Dubli**
- *C. glabrata* → **Glabrata RTT**
- *C. krusei* → **Krusei-Color**