

Candidiasis **THRUSH**

What is Candidiasis?

Candidiasis or “thrush” is a very common fungal infection found in the mouth. The term Candidiasis refers to the organism that causes the disease, *Candida albicans*. This yeast-like fungus is a normal inhabitant of the mouth and is found in 30%-50% of persons without any evidence of infection.

What causes Candidiasis?

Depending on a person’s immune system and the conditions in the oral cavity, Candidiasis may occur. Although any person can develop Candidiasis at any age, this infection is associated with a variety of conditions.

Any one of the following may predispose a person to Candidiasis:

Denture wearer	cigarette smoker	dry mouth
Use of antibiotics	use of corticosteroids	elderly
Infants	immune system disorders	diabetes
Radiation or chemotherapy	diseases of blood	poor diet

How is Candidiasis diagnosed?

Candidiasis is a fungal infection. Therefore, treatment involves the use of antifungal medications. Some antifungal creams can be obtained over-the-counter, while other antifungal medications (lozenges and pills) require a prescription.

Depending on the medication prescribed, treatment for Candidiasis usually requires 10-14 days. Evaluation following treatment is recommended. In cases where the infection does not resolve following treatment and a predisposing factor cannot be identified, a referral to a physician may be required.

Is Candidiasis contagious?

Candidiasis is not a contagious disease and cannot be spread others.

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