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Paper Information

Comparison of fungal contamination between hospitals and companies food units

Author(s): C. Viegas, M. Almeida, C. Ramos, R. Sabino, C. Verissimo & L. Rosado

Abstract:

A descriptive study was developed to compare air and surfaces fungal contamination in ten hospitals' food units and two food units from companies. Fifty air samples of 250 litres through impaction method were collected from hospitals' food units and 41 swab samples from surfaces were also collected, using a 10 by 10 cm square stencil.

Regarding the two companies, ten air samples and eight surface samples were collected.

Air and surface samples were collected in food storage facilities, kitchen, food plating and canteen.

Outdoor air was also collected since this is the place regarded as a reference.

Simultaneously, temperature, relative humidity and meal numbers were registered. Concerning air from hospitals' food units, 32 fungal species were identified, being the two most commonly isolated genera *Penicillium* sp.

(43.6%) and *Cladosporium* sp.

(23.2%).

Regarding yeasts, only *Rhodotorula* sp.

(84.2%) and *Trichosporon* sp.

(15.8%) were isolated.

Regarding the analyzed surfaces from the same places, 21 fungal species were identified, being also *Penicillium* sp. (69.1%) and *Cladosporium* sp.

(8.25%) the genera most frequently found.

Candida parapsilosis (36.3%) and *Rhodotorula* sp.

(25.7%) were the most prevalent yeast species. In

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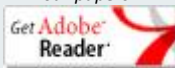


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the two companies, nine fungal species were identified in air, being Cladosporium sp.

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the most frequent genus (71.2%) followed by Penicillium sp. (13.0%).

Only one yeast species, Candida famata, was identified.

Eight filamentous fungi and three yeasts were identified in the analyzed surfaces, being ...

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