Use of PCR-RFLP for molecular identification of *Candida* species isolated from clinical samples

Zahra Salehi*, Sadegh Khodavaisy, Sassan Rezaie

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**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Vulvovaginal candidiasis (VC) is a common mucosal infection in genital tract among women. Up to 75 percent of women may experience VC at least once in their lifetime. Rapid and accurate diagnosis of causative agents of VC with molecular techniques is necessary for epidemiological purposes and for effective treatment.

**Materials and Methods:** Fifty isolates from patients with suspicious symptoms of VC were identified by phenotypic methods and confirmed by molecular approaches based on PCR-RFLP.

**Results:** Twenty-seven (54%) of strains were *C. albicans*, 12 (24%) strains *C. glabrata*, 3 (6%) strains *C. kefyr*, 2 (4%) strains *C. tropicalis*. Like the most of similar studies performed in this field, the present study found *Candida albicans* as common species isolated from VC.

**Conclusion:** PCR-RFLP is rapid, sensitive, and reliable method that might be also used for other similar epidemiological studies and medical mycology laboratories.