

Candida

Candida is a genus of yeasts and is the most common cause of fungal infections worldwide.

Many species are harmless commensals or endosymbionts of hosts including humans; however, when mucosal barriers are disrupted or the immune system is compromised they can invade and cause disease.

see [Candida albicans](#).

[Candida](#) spp. are responsible for the majority of fungal ventricular [shunt infections](#). Usually occurs in [children](#) < 1 year of age.

Incidence: 1–7% ¹⁾. The 4th leading pathogen causing [meningitis](#) in neurosurgical patients in 1 study ²⁾, possibly related to the use of [prophylactic antibiotics](#) used for ICP monitoring and CSF drainage. Higher incidence in VP shunt patients with abdominal infections and shunts placed in patients with previous bacterial meningitis ³⁾. CSF typically shows elevated [WBCs](#) and [protein](#), normal [glucose](#).

Management recommendations:

1. completely remove the contaminated shunt (may be more important than with bacterial infections)
2. place a fresh [external ventricular drain](#) (if [shunt-dependent hydrocephalus](#))
3. treat with [antifungal therapy](#) (Liposomal [amphotericin B](#) 3–4 mg/kg IV daily + [flucytosine](#) 25 mg/kg PO QID).

¹⁾

Sanchez-Portocarrero J, Martin-Rabadan P, Saldana CJ, et al. Candida cerebrospinal fluid shunt infection. Report of two new cases and review of the literature. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis. 1994; 20:33–40

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Nguyen MH, Yu VL. Meningitis caused by Candida species: an emerging problem in neurosurgical patients. Clin Infect Dis. 1995; 21:323–327

³⁾

Geers TA, Gordon SM. Clinical significance of Candida species isolated from cerebrospinal fluid following neurosurgery. Clin Infect Dis. 1999; 28: 1139–1147

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