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Letter

API 20C profile numbers for *Candida albicans*

Editors:

In 1990, the *Journal of Naturopathic Medicine* published an article "Frequency of API 20C profile numbers in stool specimens submitted for the isolation and characterization of *Candida albicans*."* The procedure for "Semi-Quantitative Stool Culture for Yeast" (SQSC for Yeast) was discussed in this article. Other laboratories are now using the procedure for SQSC for Yeast. This letter presents the results of two parallel tests of the procedure for SQSC for Yeast.

The SQSC for Yeast has been used by Consulting Clinical and Microbiological Laboratory, Inc. (CCML) since 1985. CCML has two accounts that together have submitted specimens for SQSC for Yeast from more than one thousand patients. When the parameters for testing the effectiveness of a laboratory test are applied to the results of the SQSC for Yeast, the following results are obtained:

n=1015

Sensitivity:	97%
Specificity:	77%
Predictive positive value:	95%
Predictive negative value:	85%

Parallel testing of stool sample, when two clinical microbiology laboratories use the SQSC for Yeast procedure, showed an agreement of 20 out of 26 tests (77% agreement). This low percentage agreement may be a reflection of the limitation of the methodology of the SQSC for Yeast.

Parallel testing of samples, when one clinical microbiological laboratory used the SQSC for Yeast procedure and another laboratory used a different yeast culturing procedure, showed an agreement of 11 of 17 tests (65% agreement). The second laboratory has modified its methodology to include the SQSC for Yeast procedure and has improved the rate at which it recovers yeast.

These preliminary results suggest that the procedure for SQSC for Yeast can be implemented by most clinical microbiological laboratories and may result in an improvement of their ability to culture yeast from stool specimens. With improved recovery methods, the true nature of candidiasis and *Candida* related complex may be better understood.

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* Kilbourn JP. **Frequency of API 20C profile numbers in stool specimens submitted for isolation and characterization of Candida albicans.** J. Naturopath. Med. 1990;1; 44-46