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# **MODERN DIAGNOSIS OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS**

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# **MODERN DIAGNOSIS OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS**

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**Scope of the problem**

**Conventional diagnosis**

**Modern diagnosis**

**Perspectives**

# MODERN DIAGNOSIS OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS

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## Invasive mycoses

*Candida* 70–90%

*Aspergillus* 10–20%

All others *Cryptococcus* ~5%

*Mucorales*

*Fusarium*

*Scedosporium*

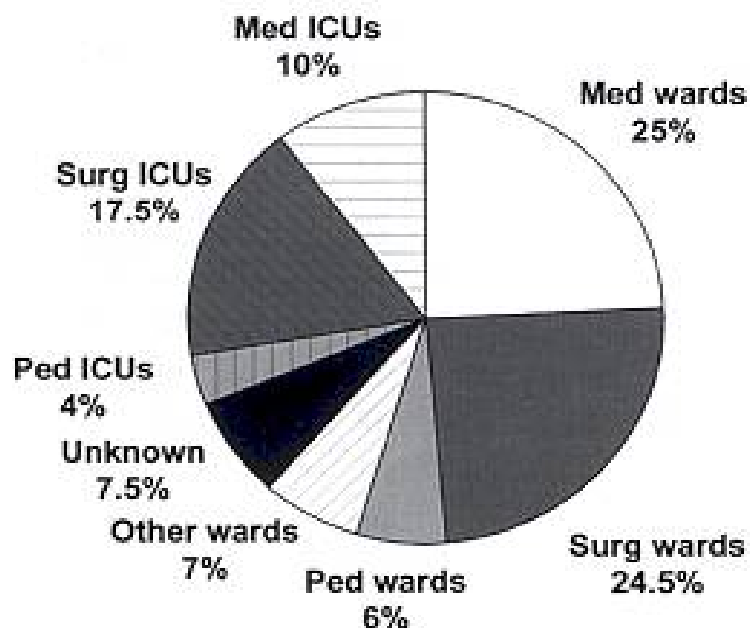
> 100 other

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## Epidemiology – Contribution of ICUs

1991-1995

355 episodes of candidemia



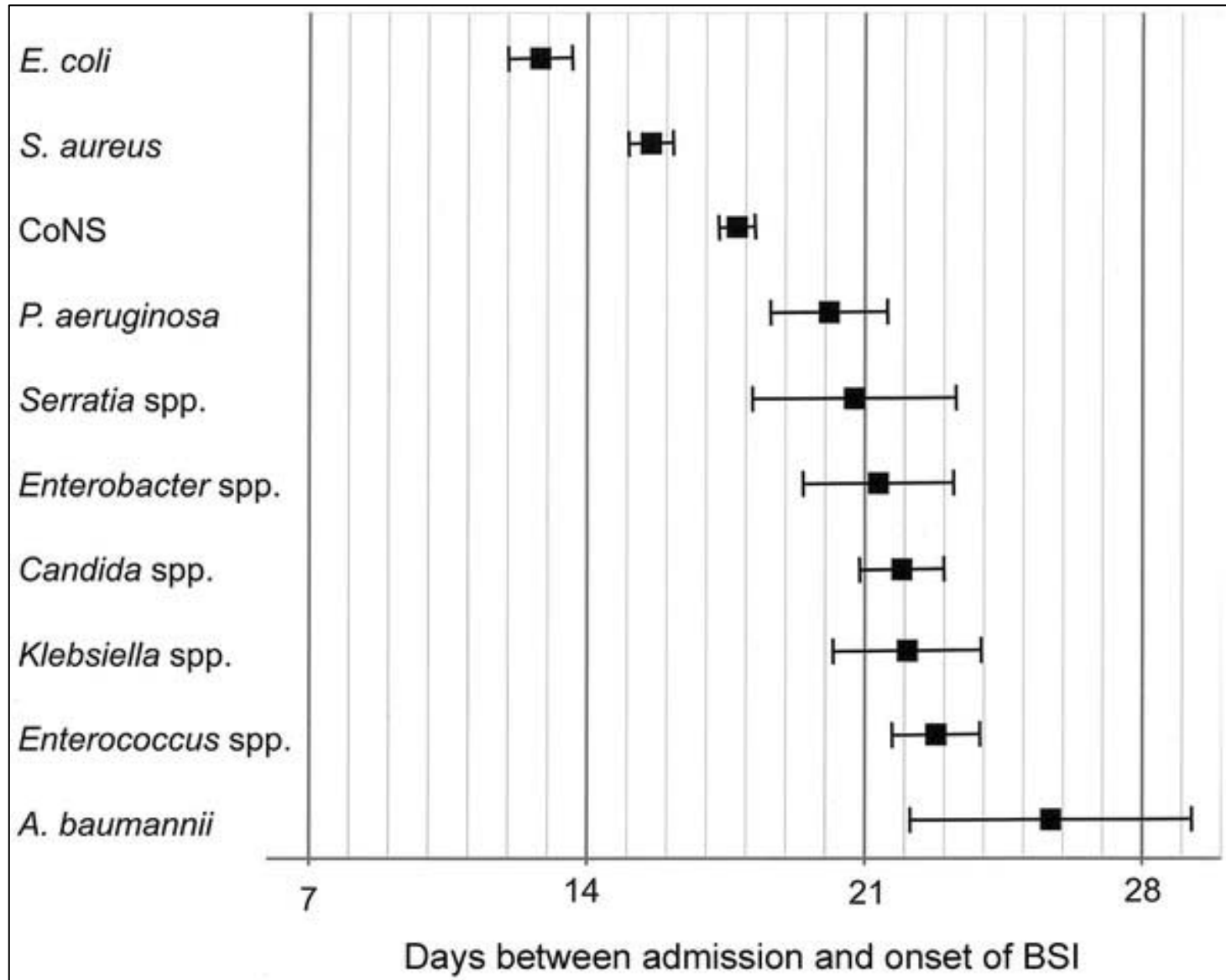
1996-2000

309 episodes of candidemia



ICUs: intensive care units  
Med: medical, including onco-hematology  
Surg: surgical  
Ped: pediatric

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## Clinical Diagnosis

### Problematic

Clinical presentation variable and non specific

fever 80%

leukocytosis 50%

chorioretinitis 25%

endophthalmitis 10-20%

skin lesions

muscle abscesses

septic arthritis

high grade candiduria in

non catheterized patients

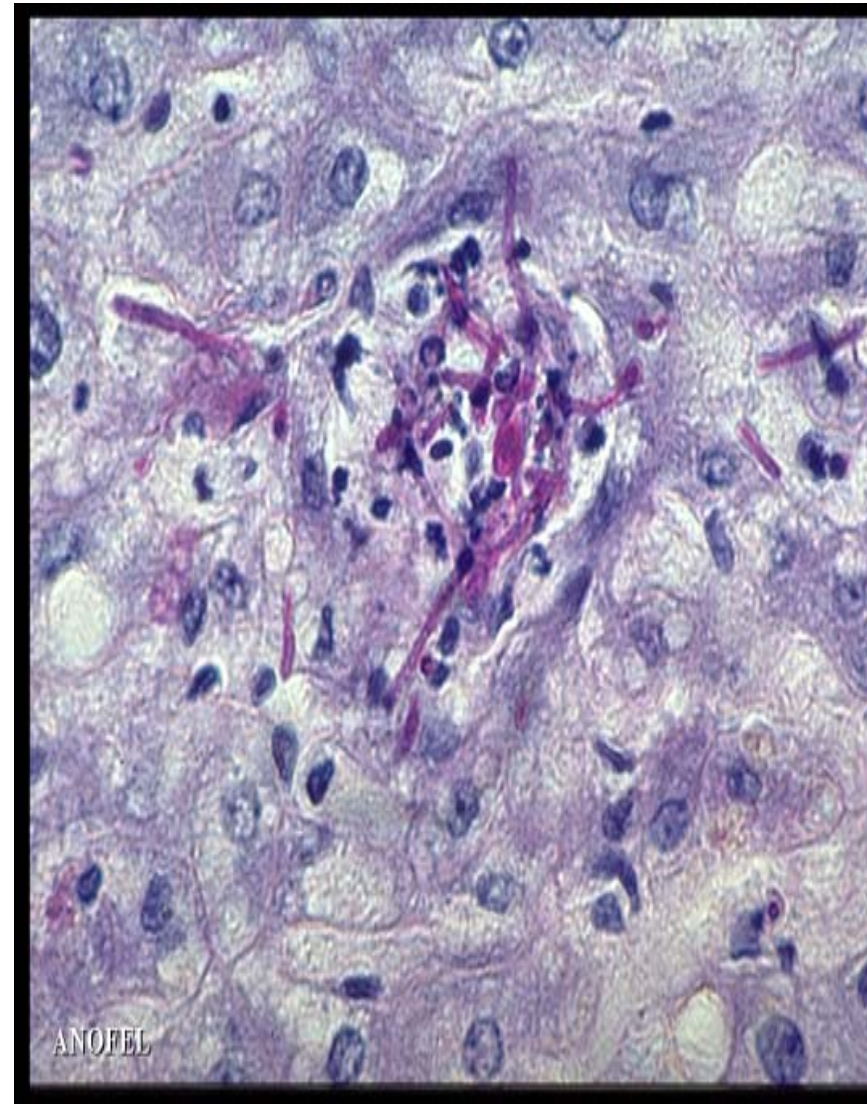
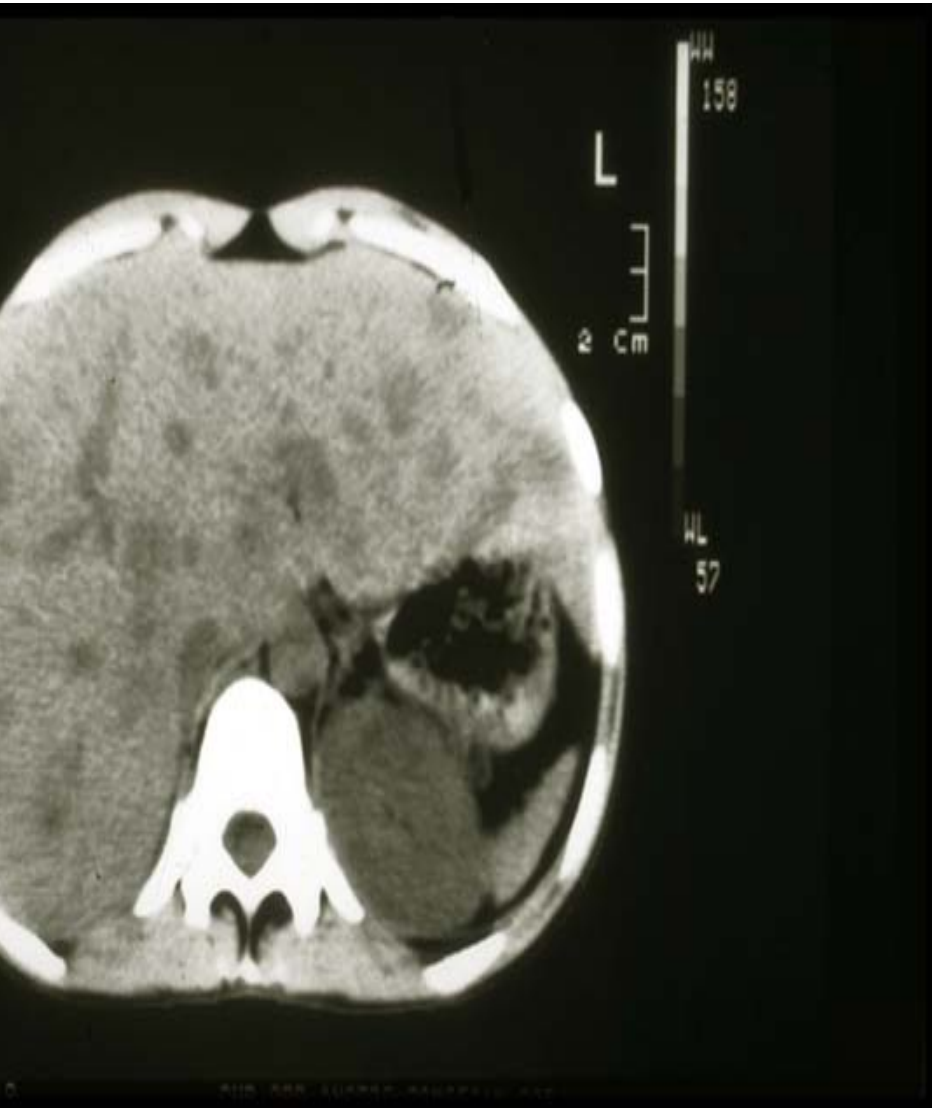
signs of multi-organ failure

## Laboratory diagnosis

### *Candida* – Conventional methods

- Direct examination of clinical samples
- Culture
  - blood
  - other sterile body sites
  - urines
  - other sites (dd colonisation-infection)
- ⊖ insensitive  
slow
- ⊕ identification to species level  
antifungal susceptibility testing
- Histology
  - biopsies (liver, skin)

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## Risk factors

## Colonisation

Spread from abdominal cavity to other body sites

Heavy or increased growth from peritoneal cavity

High amounts in stool

Multiple site colonization

Patient specific strain carriage

Colonisation rate at entry

5-15%

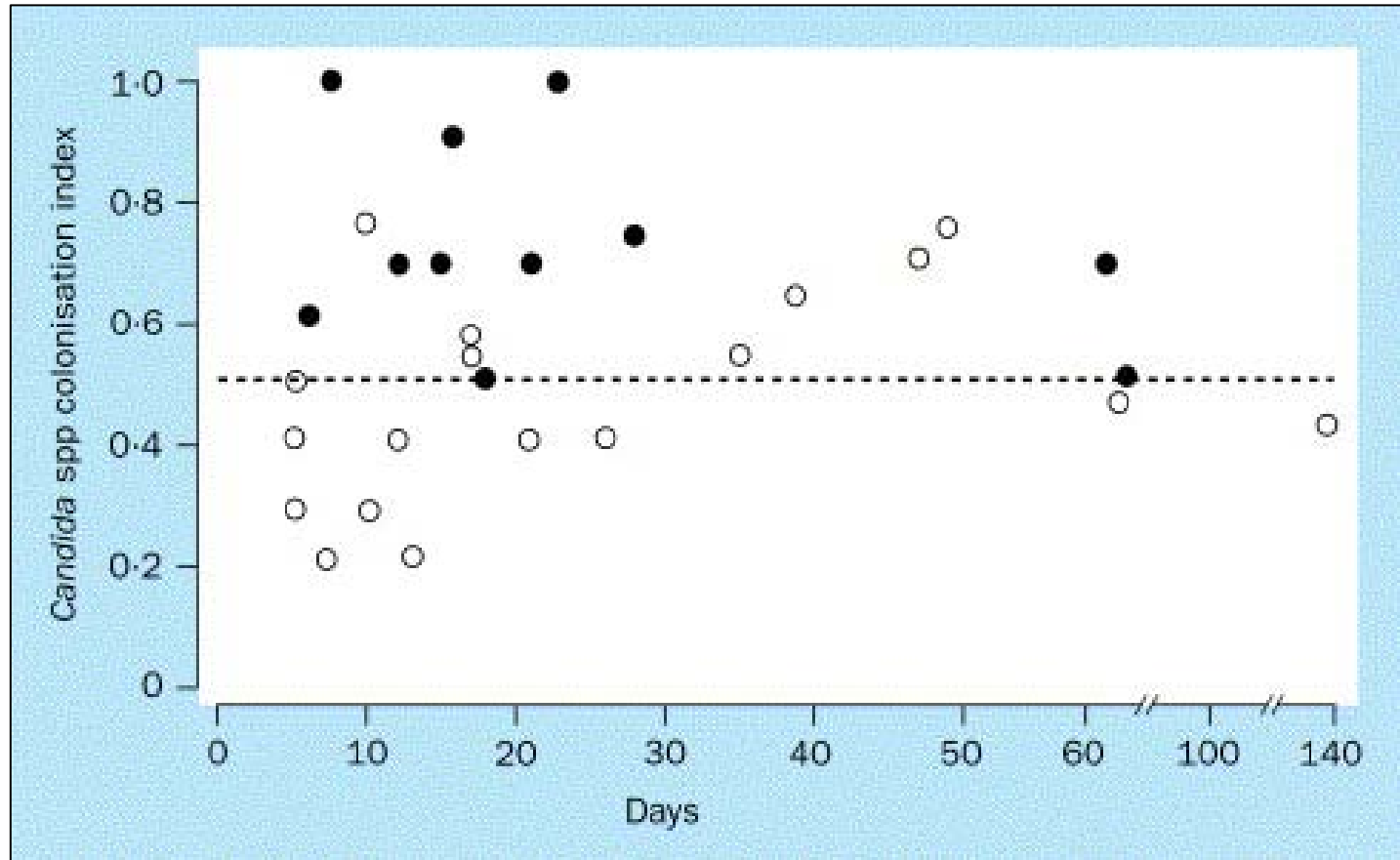
during prolonged ICU stay

50-85%

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## Risk factors

## *Candida* colonisation



**Colonisation index: ratio of the nb of body sites colonised to the total nb of body sites cultured**

**Eggimann P. et al., *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2003; 3: 685.**

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## Invasive Candidiasis (IC) in surgical ICU patients

### Association with selected anatomic sites colonization

182 SICU pts.

2851 surveillance fungal cultures from 5 sites

Site(s) of colonization	<u>% IC positive</u>	<u>if colonization negative</u>
Urine	13.2%	2.8%
respiratory tract	8.0%	1.2%
rectum/ostomy	8.4%	0%
urine and respiratory		0%

## Laboratory diagnosis

### *Candida* – indirect tests

- antigen-antibodies
- fungal DNA detection

Mostly evaluated in onco-hematology patients

Very few studies in ICU patients

Very few commercially available tests

## Diagnosis of invasive *Candida* infections

### Antigen based tests

#### detection limit

Mannan      0.1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$       specific to *Candida* spp

$\beta$ -1-3 D  
glucan      0.1  $\text{pg/mL}$       non specific to *Candida* sp



## Diagnosis of invasive *Candida* infections

### Mannan (+ antimannan)

### Sensitivity factors

main variables:

- type of disease      candidemia in:
  - oncohematology
  - ICU patientshepatosplenic candidiasis
- species of *Candida*
- stage of the disease (antibodies)
- frequency of testing (per test or per episode evaluation)

## Mannan screening in ICU patients

Prospective study of 105 ICU patients (>7 days in ICU)  
Screening 1x/week

IC n=10 (2 proven, 3 probable)

Colonization rate : 70%

Mannan positive in 60% pt with IC  
43% pt colonized  
25% pt without colonization

20% of false positive results !

## Multicenter Clinical Evaluation of $\beta$ -D-glucan Assay

163 patients with IFI, 170 without - 1 sample taken within  
72 hours after diagnosis

107 patients with proven candidiasis

sensitivity 81.3%

All patients	sensitivity	70%
	specificity	87%
	PPV	83.8%
	NPV	75.1%

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## $\beta$ -D-glucan for diagnosis of IFI in patients with acute infections

	<u>BG assay positive</u>	
	<i>(Digby 2003)</i>	<i>(Pickering 2005)</i>
IFI confirmed	96% (25/26)	87% (13/15)
Bacteremia	73% (8/11)	56% (14/25)
No infection	22% (2/9)	

Low positive predictive value

High negative predictive value ( $\geq 95\%$ )

Pickering JW et al., *J. Clin Microbiol* 2005; 43: 5957.

Digby J et al., *Clin Diag Lab Immunol* 2003; 10: 882.

## **Molecular based tests**

### **DNA detection (PCR)**

**Single species/genus versus panfungal**

**High sensitivity (1-10 fg of DNA)**

**Applied to various body fluids : blood, serum,  
CSF, BAL**

**Quantification possible (response to antifungal  
therapy, differentiation  
colonization-infection)**

**No standardized (commercial) assay**

**→ no prospective multicenter large studies**

## **Aspergillosis**

**Clinical signs/symptoms are non specific**

**fever**

**dyspnea**

**non productive cough**

**hemoptysis**

**chest pain**

**pleural rib**

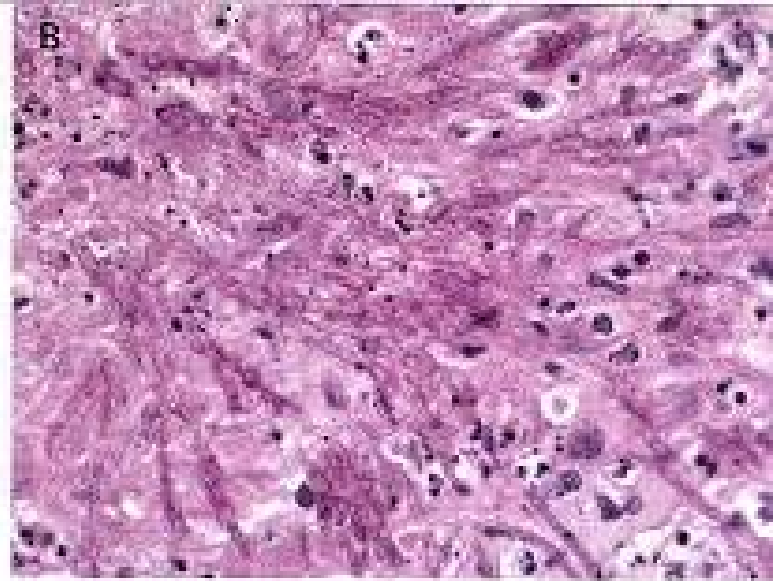
**In a proper host  
rapidly progressive**

## ***Aspergillus* – Conventional diagnosis**

- direct examination of tissue
- of indirect clinical specimens (sputum, BAL)

	<u>sputum/BAL</u>	<u>tissue</u>
unstained	wet prep ± KOH	
routine stains	Gram	HE
fungus stains	GMS, PAS	GMS, PAS
fluorescent dyes	Calcofluor white Uvitex 2B Blankophor	

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In: Hope et al., *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 5: 609, 2005

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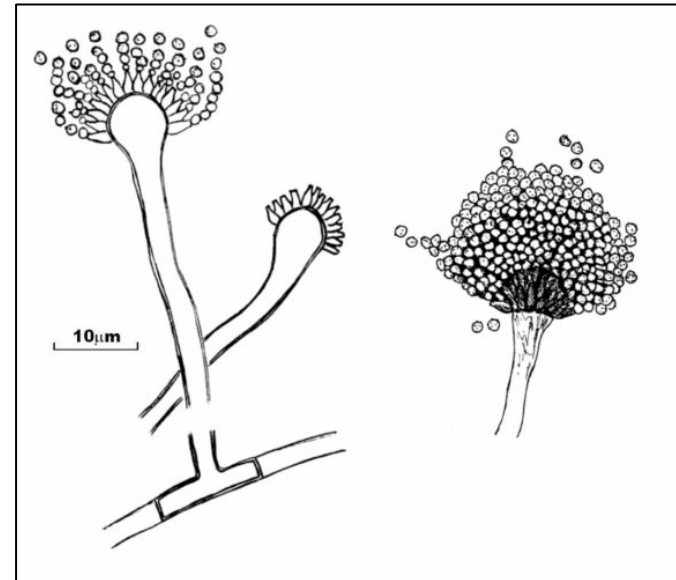
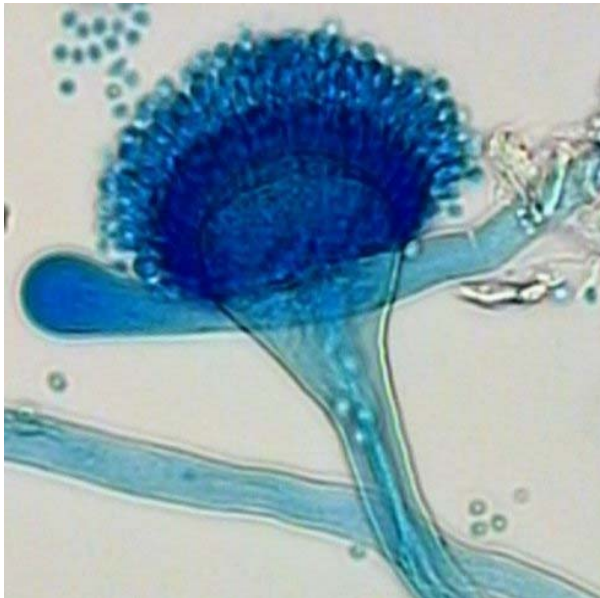
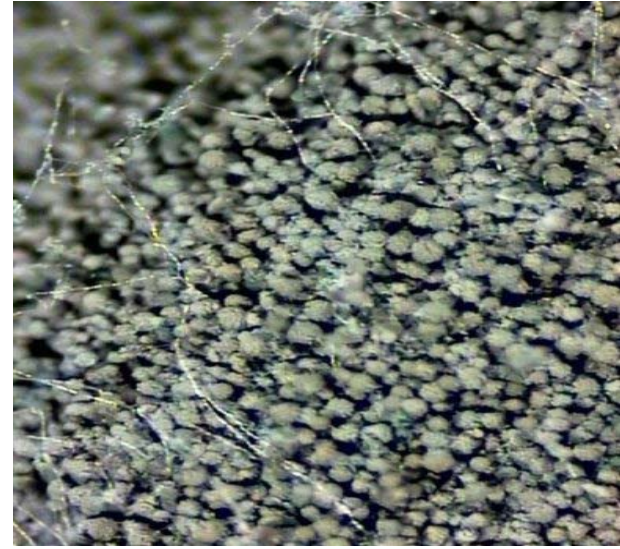
## *Aspergillus* – Culture

<b>Media</b>	<b>Isolation :</b>	<b>Sabouraud (+ antibiotics) blood agar, chocolate agar</b>
	<b>Identification :</b>	<b>malt-extract, corn-meal agar Czapek agar</b>

## **Incubation**

<b>temperature</b>	<b>25-30°C → improvement ?</b>
<b>athmosphere</b>	<b>aerobic</b>
<b>duration</b>	<b>2-6 weeks</b>

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In: Andreoni et al., *Medical Mycology Atlas*.

## Yield of culture for molds in histopathologic positive samples

	n=	culture	positive
Autopsy samples	23	12	52%
Surgical or biopsy tissue	30	9	30%

## Positive predictive value of a positive sputum culture for IA

Highly variable (15-77%)

Depends on host factors

allo BMT	60%
leukemia + neutropenia	70-80%
SOT	20-60%
HIV/AIDS	14-20%
Corticosteroids	20%

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Perfect et al. (MSG), *Clin Infect Dis* 2001; 33: 1824

Yu et al., *Am J Med* 1986; 81: 249

Horvath and Dummer, *Am J Med* 1996; 100: 171

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## *Aspergillus*

### Antigen based-test – Galactomannan

<u>pt.</u>	<u>Gm positive in pt. with IA*</u>	<u>Sens.</u>	<u>GM negative in pt. without IA</u>	<u>Spec.</u>	<u>Cut-off</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
Allo-HSCT	17/18	94%	72/73	99%	1.5 (2x)	Maertens <i>JID</i> 2002
TN	31/98	32%	607/640	95%	1.5 (1x)	Herbrecht <i>JCO</i> 2002
TN	8/17	47%	134/143	94%	1.0	Becker <i>BJH</i> 2003
TN	48/53	91%	700/744	94%	1.5 (>1x)	Sulahian <i>Cancer</i> 2
BMT	13/24	54%	32/43	74%	1.0	Marr <i>JID</i> 2004

proven or probable cases of aspergillosis only

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## Comparison of invasive aspergillosis in neutropenic and non neutropenic patients

Single institution during 6 y

88 cases (12 proven, 52 probable, 24 possible)

	neutropenia	
	+	-
n=	59%	41%
mortality	60%	< 89%
BAL positive	58%	< 85%
Galactomannan positive	64%	65%
anti-aspergillus antibodies	6%	< 48%

## Current recommendations

### New tests

Complementary to conventional methods

Used as screening methods in targeted patients

High NPV → reduction of empirical therapy

High PPV → early targeted preemptive therapy

Cost-efficiency, impact on outcome :  
data still pending