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### **Factors associated with ocular mycosis**

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Purpose: To analyze the associated factors with ocular mycosis diagnosed by culture in the ocular External Diseases Laboratory-UNIFESP.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed the culture proven ocular mycosis cases between 1983 and 2000. Variables included sex, age and ocular structure involved. The associated factors were: previous treatments (including corticosteroids); pre existing ocular diseases; contact lens use; trauma and surgical procedures.

Results: Of 240 patients, 191 had filamentous fungi infections (Group I) and 49 yeast infections (Group II). Ages varied between 5 and 99 years. In 95% of the patients at least one factor was found and in 70% of them, more than one. Among them, contact lens and topical corticosteroid use were detected in both groups but without any significant association. No significant association was demonstrated with ocular trauma, more frequently, found in the filamentous fungi group (34%), and ocular surgery, more frequent in the yeast group (35%). Significant statistical association was demonstrated for preexisting ocular disease in the yeast group ( $p < 0.03$ ).

Conclusion: For both fungal groups we found a significant difference in percentage of some associated factors but that difference was not statistically significant. Probably with a higher number of patients we could demonstrate a statistically significant association of factors for each type of infection though the proportion of yeasts and filamentous fungi could be the same.