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Mycobial flora of normal conjunctiva in individuals who reside in urban areas

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Purpose: To determine the mycobial flora of the normal conjunctiva in healthy individuals who reside in urban areas. Methods: A prospective study evaluating the conjunctival fungal flora of 197 individuals, residents of the metropolitan area of São Paulo-SP, Brazil, who had had ophthalmological treatment, was carried out. For each individual, a scraping of the inferior tarsal conjunctiva of both eyes was done. The samples were transferred directly to Sabouraud agar with added chloramphenicol for culture. The plaque readings were carried out for 30 days. The identification of fungi species was confirmed by studies of the conidia's characteristics of the fungi micromorphology structures dyed with lactophenol (cotton blue). People with no ocular diseases and who did not use contact lenses or eye drops, at least 30 days previous to the study, were included. Results: Of the 197 individuals who had scrapings, positive growth was verified in six (3.1%). The isolations were from six eyes of different individuals (four RE and two LE). The isolated fungi were filamentous, these being: *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Nattrassia mangiferae*, *Chaetomium globosum*, and *Aspergillus niger*, This last one was isolated from two individuals. The number of colonies present in the plaque readings in the 30th day varied from one to two colonies. Conclusions: The frequency of positive cultures of fungi per healthy individual was 3.1%, probably the result of transitory conjunctival mycobiota, characterized by monocular isolation with a low number of colonies in each culture.