

**CELL WALL PROTEINS EXPRESSION OF *Candida albicans* ISOLATED  
FROM ORAL CAVITY OF HIV CHILD MODIFY AFTER SAQUINAVIR  
TREATMENT**

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Oropharyngeal candidiasis, typically caused by *Candida albicans*, is the most frequent opportunistic oral disease in children infected with HIV and is a sentinel indicator of immunodeficiency and HIV disease progression. This study aimed to analyze the effect of Saquinavir treatment on cell wall proteins expression of *C. albicans* involved in an adhesion process. After 48 h of yeast's growth in BHI medium at 37°C with agitation, cells were treated with Saquinavir for 24 h in different concentrations (100 and 150µM). The cell wall proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and identified by Western-blotting using Concanavalin A, Fibronectin and Integrin  $\alpha 5$  antibodies with chemiluminescence detection. The binding of the yeasts to these substrates was also investigated by flow cytometry. The results showed that Saquinavir treatment modified the surface proteins expression of treated yeasts, in a dependent drug concentration that could be considered the cause of adhesion inhibition of the yeasts to epithelial cells ( $p < 0,05$ , in a concentration of 150 µM). So, besides the well known immunological improvement made by the antiretroviral drugs, our results have shown that Saquinavir has a particular influence on expression of important proteins of *C. albicans* responsible for infection establishment *in vitro*.  
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