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**First multicenter characterization of oral yeasts from healthy individuals in Colombian dental clinics****Raul Eduardo Rivera Quiroga**

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Few studies in Colombia provide an approximation of the prevalence of oral fungal colonization, data related to different species or their biological, clinical and epidemiological aspects. Considering this, a multicenter study was carried out to identify the most frequently occurring oral yeasts in healthy adult individuals who attended dental clinics at the Antonio Nariño University in nine different Colombian cities. Oral rinse samples were obtained from 96 adult healthy patients and cultured and identified by panfungal PCR sequencing. Association between sociodemographic variables and oral health habits with presence of oral fungi and mixed colonization was made by a correspondence analysis and contingency table and logistic regression was performed to evaluate a possible relationship between these variables with a significance of  $p < 0.05$ . 57.3% of healthy individuals had oral yeast and 21.8% had mixed colonization. The most prevalent yeast was *Candida albicans* (52%), *C. parapsilosis* (17.9%) and *C. dubliniensis* (7.57%). Yeasts with low frequency (1.5%), included *Pichia kluyveri*, *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa* and *Geotrichum candidum*. Yeasts most frequently associated in mixed colonization were *Candida albicans* and *Candida parapsilosis*. The presence of mixed colonization was related to the use of dental prostheses ( $P < 0.006$ ), dental aparatology ( $P < 0.016$ ) and O'leary index ( $P < 0.012$ ). This is the first study that characterizes oral yeast in a Colombian healthy population, showing a relationship between using dental prostheses and having dental appliances with having mixed colonies of oral yeasts and reveals a possible synergy between *C. albicans* and *C. parapsilosis*.

**Biography**

Raul Eduardo Rivera Quiroga is a Biologist with a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences. He is PhD student at the University of Quindio, Director of Research at the Faculty of Dentistry at the Antonio Nariño University, Armenia and Member of the Research Group of Health Oral of the same university. He has published 4 papers in reputed journals and has been an Evaluator of the Colombian Association of Faculties of Dentistry (ACFO), Colombia.

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