Indian Journal of Basic and Applied Medical Research; June 2016: Vol.-5, Issue- 3, P. 123-129

**Original article  
Isolation of *Malassezia* yeast using Modified Dixon’s Agar from Pityriasis versicolor lesions**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Pityriasis versicolor is one of the superficial fungal infections of the skin in which a pathogen is restricted to the stratum corneum. The causative organism of Pityriasis versicolor is the lipophilic yeast, of the genus *Malassezia.* *Malassezia* yeast gains more importance in recent times as it is associated with varied clinical spectrum of infections and its identification and culture plays a major role in the further understanding and treatment of fungal infections. Thus, this study was undertaken to evaluate the staining method and culture method for isolation of *Malassezia* spp.

**Methods:** This cross sectional study was conducted in the Institute of Microbiology, Madras Medical College, and the Mycology section of the Department of Dermatology, RGGGH, Chennai. From 112 outpatients with Pityriasis versicolor lesions,skin scrapings were collected and directly examined using Parker Quink’s stain and Potassium hydroxide mount. Modified Dixon’s Agar and Sabouraud Dextrose Agar(SDA)with Olive oil overlay were used for isolation of *Malassezia* yeast.

**Observations & Results:**Parker Quink’s stain was found to be more useful in the identification of *Malassezia* yeast than Potassium hydroxide mount.Modified Dixon’s Agar had higher isolation rate than SDAwith Olive oil overlay for *Malassezia* yeast.

**Conclusion:** *Malassezia* yeast causes a wide range of infection from Pityriasis versicolor to fugemia in recent times. Therefore,to study the characteristics of *Malassezia* yeast ,an ideal staining method like Parker Quink’s stain and culture medium like Modified Dixon’s Agar should be used for isolation of *Malassezia* yeast instead of the conventional methods.

**Keywords:** Pityriasis versicolor, *Malassezia* yeast,Modified Dixon’s Agar