

or viral cultures should be obtained. Although no treatment is necessary, parents are usually concerned about the rash and need to be reassured of its benign and transient nature.

Candidiasis

Candidiasis, also known as **moniliasis**, is not uncommon in newborns. *Candida albicans*, the usual organism responsible, may cause disease in any organ system. It is a yeastlike fungus (it produces yeast cells and spores) that can be acquired from a maternal vaginal infection during delivery; from person-to-person transmission (especially from poor hand-washing technique); or from contaminated hands, bottles, nipples, or other articles. Mucocutaneous, cutaneous, and disseminated candidal infections are all observed in this age group. Candidiasis is usually a benign disorder in neonates, often confined to the oral and diaper regions. In extremely preterm infants, there is an increased risk of serious systemic infections caused by *Candida*. **Diaper dermatitis** caused by *Candida* organisms manifests as a moist, erythematous eruption with small white or yellow pebbly pustules. Small areas of skin erosion may also be seen (see [Diaper Dermatitis, Chapter 10](#)).

Oral Candidiasis

Oral candidiasis (**thrush**) is characterized by white, adherent patches on the tongue, palate, and inner aspects of the cheeks ([Fig. 8-4](#)). It is often difficult to distinguish from coagulated milk. The infant may refuse to suck because of pain in the mouth.