

## CANDIDA LUSITANIAE

SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION	
Kingdom	Fungi
Division	Ascomycota
Subphylum	Saccharomycotina
Class	Saccharomycetes
Order	Saccharomycetales
Family	Saccharomycetaceae
Genus	Candida
Species	C.lusitaniae



*Candida lusitaniae* is a species of yeast in the genus *Candida*. *C. lusitaniae* was first identified as a human pathogen in 1979. *C. lusitaniae* was initially described as a rare cause of fungemia, with fewer than 30 cases reported between 1979 and 1990. However, there has been a marked increase in the number of recognized cases of candidemia due to this organism in the last two decades. Bone marrow transplantation and high-dose cytoreductive chemotherapy have both been identified as risk factors for infections with this organism. These patients are often neutropenic for extended periods of time, leaving them susceptible to bacterial and fungal

infections, including candidal infections. Some investigators have theorized that the widespread use of Amphotericin B empiric antifungal therapy selects for infections with *Candida lusitanae*. *Candida lusitanae* is an infrequent opportunistic pathogen but of special interest in view of its ability to develop resistance to amphotericin B.