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Thesis Title	Oral Findings and Oral <i>Candida</i> flora in the β -thalassemic patients		
Year	2009		
Abstract	<p>Thalassemic patients present with multiple immune abnormalities that may predispose them to oral <i>Candida</i>, however this has not been investigated. The aim of this study was to assess oral candidal colonization in a group of patients with α-thalassemia major both qualitatively and quantitatively. Study design. The oral mycologic flora of 50 α-thalassemia major patients and 50 age- and sex-matched control subjects was assessed using the concentrated oral rinse technique. <i>Candida</i> species were identified using the germ tube test and the Vitek yeast identification system. Oral <i>Candida</i> was isolated from 37 patients (74%) and 28 healthy subjects (56%; $P = .04$). The mean candidal count was significantly higher in thalassemic patients compared with the healthy group ($P = .05$) and in patients who had surgical splenectomy compared with nonsplenectomized patients ($P = .04$).</p> <p>Oral <i>Candida</i> colonization and candidal counts are significantly higher in α-thalseemia major patients than in healthy subjects. Surgical splenectomy may increase the quantity of colonizing oral candidal organisms in thalassemic patients.</p>		