

Fungal Infections (Mycoses)

Mycoses

Fungal infection, also known as **mycosis**, is a disease caused by fungi.

The fungal infections occur almost exclusively in immunologically deficient/debilitated animals.

I. Superficial mycoses:

2 types: surface and cutaneous mycoses

Skin, hair & nails. Mild but chronic disease

II. Deep mycoses:

2 types: subcutaneous & systemic mycoses

Caused by soil saprophytes. Infection is accidental

Range from a symptomatic infection to a fatal disease.

Subcutaneous mycoses e.g., Mycotic Mycetoma, Chromoblastomycosis, Sporotrichosis

Rhinosporidiosis

Systemic mycoses e.g., Cryptococcoses, Blastomycosis, Coccidioidomycoses, Histoplasmoses

III. Superficial: Surface mycoses

Live exclusively on dead surfaces of skin and its appendages.

No contact with living tissue, hence no inflammatory response

Tinea versicolor, *Tinea nigra*, Piedra

IV. Superficial: Cutaneous mycoses

Cornified layer of skin and its appendages

Contact with living tissue, hence inflammatory and allergic responses seen

Dermatophytes – skin, hair & nails

3 genera – Trichophyton, Microsporum, Epidermophyton

V. Candidiasis

Caused by candida sps, forms a bridge between superficial and deep mycoses as it can cause cutaneous as well as systemic infections

Opportunistic infections

Fungi can also cause opportunistic infections. Pts with debilitating disease, altered physiological state
Mainly caused by fungi which are common lab contaminants on culture media.

e.g., Aspergillus, Penicillium, Mucor, and Rhizopus may produce serious and fatal infections as a secondary infection in SARS-Corona virus-infected patients (e.g., **mucormycosis** referred to as '**Black Fungus**').

References

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