

BOOK REVIEW - LIVRO*

SEGAL, Esther & BAUM, Gerald L. - Pathogenic yeasts and yeasts infections. Boca Raton, CRC Press, 1994. 238p. illust.
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Ester Segal and Gerald L. Baum, professors at the University of Tel-Aviv, Israel, have condensed in a book all the most recent information about the Biology of *Candida* and *Cryptococcus*, i.e., their pathogeny, epidemiology, host response to fungal aggression, pathology, clinical aspects, diagnosis, and treatment. Several Israeli colleagues and Prof. J. Mueller, from Germany, contributed to the book with chapters containing the latest information. Yeasts present as constituents of exogenous and endogenous microbiota cause fungal infection frequently observed in medical practice, with superficial or deep lesions today considered as indicators of immunodeficiency.

The chapter on yeasts of the genus *Candida* deals with the general biological characteristics of this yeast, its ultrastructure, cell wall, the genetics of *Candida albicans*, virulence factors, experimental infection, and vaccination. In a second section, candidiasis is studied mainly in its cutaneous-mucosal, vaginal, ocular and disseminated forms.

The authors then discuss *Cryptococcus* and cryptococcosis, with a chapter devoted to the production of melanin and the virulence factor of *Cryptococcus neoformans*. The epidemiology, pathogeny, pathology, and clinical manifestation of cryptococcosis and the diagnosis and treatment of this fungal infection are covered in the subsequent chapters of this excellent book devoted to the updating of the topics of highest importance in Medical Mycology.

A bibliography is presented at the end of each chapter. It should be pointed out that candidiasis and cryptococcosis are fungal infections that almost always attack immunocompromised patients.

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