

Most Frequently Asked Questions



About Candida Auris



What is Candida auris ?

Candida auris Initially reported in 2009, then emerged rapidly and has become more common. C. auris is a multidrug-resistant opportunistic yeast that can cause serious infections .

What Are the Consequences of Candida auris Infection ?

C. auris can cause invasive fungal infection and bloodstream infection among hospitalized patients with significant medical morbidities and patients in long-term care facilities. C. auris isolates are mostly resistant to the major antifungals, thus pose a major threat in healthcare settings. Unidentified C. auris is easily transmitted in a healthcare setting and can cause an outbreak .

How is it Transmitted ?

Since C. auris is commonly found on the skin, it is often spread through person-to-person contact with a colonized or infected person via uncleaned, patient-shared equipment. C. auris can also persist in an uncleaned environment, allowing for transmission between patients .

What is The Type of Isolation-Based Precautions Required ?

Standard and contact isolation precautions should be implemented .

Is Treatment Available?

C.auris can be treated with an antifungal. Consultation with an infectious disease specialist is highly recommended .

Who is At Risk ?

People who are at high risk of acquiring C. auris are like those at risk for other Candida infections, specifically those having broad-spectrum antimicrobial, having surgical procedure, immunosuppressed, diabetes and other morbidity complications resulting from chronic diseases .

How is it Tested ?

Collection of groin and axilla swabs is the best screening sample to confirm colonization of C.auris .

How Long Can a Person Be Colonized With it ?

Due the emerging nature of C. auris, healthcare professionals are still investigating how long can a person be colonized with it. Long-term and recurrent hospital admission, prolong antimicrobial, and antifungal treatment poses a high risk of a longer colonization period. The best practice advises at this stage, until further evidence is available, is to initiate infection prevention and control measures based on healthcare facility's policy and procedures .

How Can Transmission be Prevented in the Healthcare Facility ?

It is essential for all healthcare workers to adhere strictly to the infection prevention and control measures for all patients .

When Should *Candida auris* Infection Be Reported ?

Healthcare facilities who have a patient with *C. auris* infection should notify the General Directorate of Infection Prevention & Control (GDIPC) immediately through the national approved electronic platform and based on the national approved Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) Outbreak Management Manual, 2023 .

When Should *C. auris* Infection be Suspected and How Can *C. auris* be Identified ?

C. auris can be misidentified as several organisms when using traditional biochemical methods for yeast identification. Accurate identification of *C. auris* requires use of sequencing or mass spectrometry .

What is the Longest Time Period that a Person can be Colonized With *C. auris* ?

Patients have been found to be colonized for several months after active infection has resolved, and the exact maximum amount of time that a patient can be colonized is unknown.

Can Patients with *C. auris* be Decolonized ?

There are currently no data on the efficacy of decolonization for patients with *C. auris*, such as the use of chlorhexidine or topical antifungals .

Are Healthcare Workers at Risk of Acquiring *C. auris* Infection?

The risk of *C. auris* infection to the healthcare workers is very low. However, strict adherence to the infection prevention & control practices and to the hand hygiene measures must be followed all the time .

Why is it Important to Implement Infection Control Measures For C. auris ?

C. auris can colonize patients' skin and other body parts months after active infection has resolved. It can be shed into healthcare environments by colonized people and persist for weeks and this persistence of the organism both on patients and in the environment enables its spread .

What Type of Environmental Cleaning is Recommended For C. auris ?

Thorough daily and terminal cleaning and disinfection of these patients' rooms is recommended by using an approved MOH disinfectants .

What is The Difference Between Infection and Colonization with C. auris ?

Colonization, or being colonized with C. auris, means that a person has the fungus somewhere on their body but does not have an infection or symptoms of infection. However, clinical infection occurs when C. auris enters the body and causes a patient to have symptoms .

Should Healthcare Worker be Screened for C.auris if they Have Cared for a Patient with C. auris infection?

At this time, healthcare providers do not need to be tested for C. auris unless they are identified as a possible source of transmission to patients .

What Does CAPS Stand For ?

Candida Auris Prevention Strategies .

What are the Objectives of CAPS ?

To prevent and control the candida auris morbidity and mortality, national wise .

To improve the prevention measures awareness' of candida auris .

To provide infection prevention & control tools and educational materials related to CAPS .

What are the 7cs ?

- ▶ Current situation analysis .
- ▶ Communication, coordination and collaboration .
- ▶ Candida auris network (CAN) .
- ▶ Comprehensive national plan .
- ▶ Commitment of the involved leaders and decision – makers .
- ▶ Capacity building .
- ▶ Control and prevention of the candida auris .

For further information, kindly refer to the Guidance for Candida Auris Infection Prevention & Control Measures at

 <https://gdipc.sa/>