

SUMMARY

The present study was undertaken to apply the horseradish peroxidase technique for detection of candida albicans and also determine the antibody titre in serum of different groups of clinical forms of candidiasis.

This technique has the advantage that it needs only ordinary microscope and also possibility of delayed reading, the brown colour indicates positive reaction while no colour indicates negative reaction.

Fifty four cases were chosen from Benha and Tanta University Hospitals and constituted the bulk of this work. There are different categories including cases with pregnancy, those taking contraceptive pills and others taking chemotherapy or corticosteroids and control cases with no clinical evidence of candidiasis.

The result of this study have shown that in pregnant cases the titre $1/_{10}$ (37.8%), $1/_{20}$ (11.1%), $1/_{40}$ (38.9%), $1/_{80}$ (22.2%).

In cases taking contraceptive pills the titre $1/40$ (10%) , $1/20$ (20%) , $1/40$ (40%) and $1/80$ (30%).

In cases taking chemotherapy or corticosteroid the titre $1/80$ (8.4%) , $1/160$ (16.6%) and $1/320$ (75%) .

The control group show only one case with titre $1/40$ (7.1%).

The conclusion of this study is that the low titre ranging from $1/40$ to $1/80$ was obtained with cases that were pregnant or taking contraceptive pills while the higher titre ranging from $1/80$ to $1/320$ was obtained with cases that taking chemotherapy or corticostroid.

Thus the higher titres of antibody have been reported to be associated with systemic disease, and low titres have been found in superficially infected patients and normal population occasionally