

S U M M A R Y

SUMMARY

Seventy seven women attending the out-patient clinic of Benha University Hospital whom on clinical evidence were thought to have vaginal candidosis were examined for yeasts by taking vaginal swabs which were examined according to the conventional mycological **laboratory** methods (**Microscopy-Culture-Fermentation-Assimilation**). The results of that method was reported and compared with the new method of diagnosis by assaying for the candida antigens using a rapid (3 min.) slide latex particle agglutination test.

The results showed that diagnosis of vaginal candidosis based on clinical criteria alone is unreliable, only 35% of the women were subsequently confirmed as having candidosis by microscopy and culture.

The new slide latex particle agglutination test gave better results, with 100% specificity, 88.9% sensitivity, high predictive values (>94.3) and an over-all diagnostic efficiency of 96%.

From the achieved results of this study, slide latex particle agglutination looks a promising rapid alternative to conventional laboratory methods for confirming a clinical **diagnosis** of vaginal candidosis.