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Clinical Image

SEM Image of *Candida Albicans* Biofilms on Plastic Coupons

Tsang PWK[1] and Lam OLT[2]*

[1]Department of Oral Biosciences, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

[2]Department of Oral Rehabilitation, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

***Corresponding author:** Lam OLT, Department of Oral Rehabilitation, The University of Hong Kong, 4A22 Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong, Tel: +852 2859 0311; Email: ottolam@hku.hk

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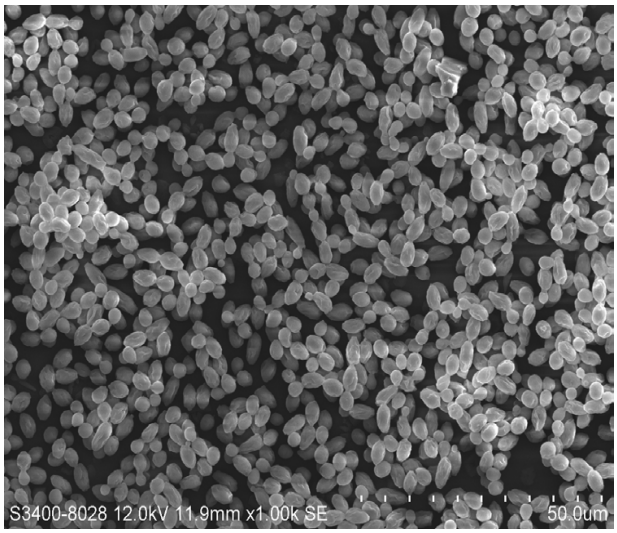
Candida is a genus of human fungal opportunistic pathogens implicated in localized infections of the oral mucosa, and oral colonization has been associated with pneumonia [1] and sepsis [2]. *Candida* is the fourth leading cause of nosocomial bloodstream infections in hospitalized patients [3]. Approximately 80% of infections are associated with biofilm formation, and *Candida* in biofilms demonstrate increased resistance to antifungal therapies [4,5].

Fungal biofilms were prepared on custom-made, pre-sterilized coupons. An inoculum of *Candida albicans* was transferred onto the coupons and incubated for 1.5 h at 37°C with agitation. After the adhesion phase, the coupons were washed twice, fresh YNB medium added, and further incubated for 24 h at 37°C. Thereafter, the coupons were washed twice and placed in 1% osmium tetroxide for 1 h. Samples were subsequently washed with distilled water, dehydrated in a series of ethanol solutions (70% for 10 min, 95% for 10 min and 100% for 20 min), and air-dried overnight in a desiccator prior to sputter coating with gold (JFC1 100; JEOL). The surface topographies of the *C. albicans* biofilms were viewed with a scanning electron microscope (Philip XL30CP).



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