

## Preface

The frequency of yeast infections has increased over the last few years. Paradoxically, this has occurred as a result of improvements in diagnostic, pharmacotherapeutic, and operative procedures of modern medicine. Although such improvements have prolonged the lifespan of man, they have made him more susceptible to opportunists in his own microflora.

Another important factor contributing to the rise of yeast infections is the AIDS epidemic. Whereas in previous years fungal infections particularly affected people at the onset and end of life, young adults are now attracting such disease. This new situation requires from the dentist an improved ability to diagnose, treat, and prevent oral mycoses. Although these will usually be *Candida* infections, other fungal agents should not be disregarded, especially not in people who have lived in areas of endemic mycoses. Unless the dentist has a thorough knowledge of the clinical aspects of oral mycoses he/she will be unable to deal effectively with them. However, this knowledge should extend further. Clinicians may go astray unless they have some knowledge of basal mycology. They must also be able to communicate with the microbial diagnostic laboratory.

This issue of *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* touches on several aspects of mycology. Scandinavian authors have for many years made significant contributions to

our understanding of oral yeast infections, and they continue to do so. We have tried in our selection of contributors to pick some of them. Unfortunately, we have not had the opportunity to include all authors who have contributed over the years. We hope we have made a good selection, having authors with background in clinical and basal dentistry, medicine, and veterinary medicine.

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