

What is fungal disease?



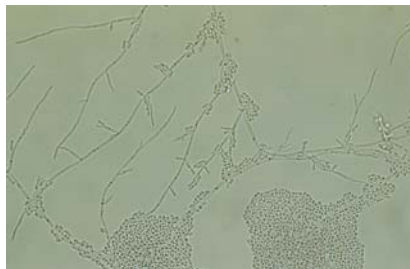
Fungal infections in man

There are 5 broad groups of fungal infections in man (fungi are the main cause of plant disease as well). Fungal infections can be grouped as follows:

- Thrush (ie vaginal thrush, oral thrush (AIDS and cancer patients, antibiotic treatment) and severe nappy rash)
- Skin infections ie athlete's foot, ringworm, dandruff, cradle cap, nappy rash and nail infections
- Invasive and life-threatening infection ie candidiasis (intensive care, prematurity, leukaemia, diabetes, dialysis), invasive aspergillosis (leukaemia, transplantation and steroid treatment) and cryptococcal meningitis (AIDS)
- Allergic fungal disease ie allergic fungal sinusitis (normal people with chronic sinusitis) and allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (asthma and cystic fibrosis) and severe asthma with fungal sensitisation
- Chronic fungal infections ie chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, chronic invasive or granulomatous sinusitis and Madura foot.

Common fungi

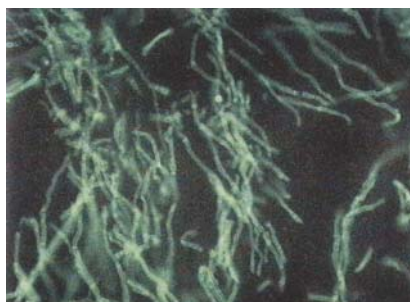
About 30 different species of fungi cause the vast majority of human fungal infection. In all about 600 species out of an estimated 1 million species worldwide cause human infection; others are implicated in allergic disease. Common fungi causing disease are:



Candida (thrush and invasive candidiasis)



Aspergillus (allergic fungal disease and invasive aspergillosis)



Trichophyton (athlete's foot and nail infections)