



White Fungus

Why in News

As the central government asks states to notify [black fungus or mucormycosis](#) an [epidemic](#), an infection called white fungus or Candidiasis has also been found to affect some people.

- [Covid-19](#) patients are **more prone to white fungus** as it affects the lungs and similar symptoms are created like that of coronavirus.
- **Black fungus** is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called **mucormycetes**, which is abundant in the environment.

Key Points

▪ About:

- **White Fungus or Candidiasis** is a fungal infection caused by a yeast (a type of fungus) called Candida.
- Candida **normally lives on the skin and inside the body**, in places such as the mouth, throat, gut, and vagina, without causing any problems.
- Candida **can cause infections** if it grows out of control or if it enters deep into the body (for example, the bloodstream or internal organs like the kidney, heart, or brain).
 - The most common species that causes infection is **Candida albicans**.

▪ Cause:

- This infection **can be caused due to low immunity**, or if people come in **contact with** things that contain these **moulds** like water, etc.
 - Children and women are more at risk of contracting the fungal infection.
- **Like the black fungus**, white fungus is also more likely to afflict people with compromised [immune systems](#), pre-existing medical conditions, [AIDS](#), a recent kidney transplant or [diabetes](#).

▪ Symptoms:

- People **experience symptoms similar to Covid** if it reaches the lungs such as chest infection, despite testing negative for the virus.
- White fungus affects the lungs as well as other parts of the body including the nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth.

▪ Diagnosis and Treatment:

- **CT scans or X-Rays** can reveal the condition.
- Patients with the white fungus are currently being treated with known **anti-fungal medication**.

▪ Prevention:

- Special caution is required of moulds in water that can lead to infection.
- Proper sanitation is very important.

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