Abstract:

Oropharyngeal candidiasis caused by *Candida albicans*, is the most common opportunistic infection in HIV infected persons. It also serves to be one of the first clinical signs of an underlying HIV infection in 50% to 95% of HIV positive persons.

Among immunocompetent persons acquired host responses in conjunction with innate resistance play a significant role in restricting *C. albicans* to an asymptomatic commensal state. This is very much possible by primary and secondary host defence mechanism. CD4+ T cells play a significant role in acquired host response. But under immunocompromised conditions, *C. albicans* along with its virulence factors, such as proteases, morphological transition, phenotypic switching, the drug resistant biofilm formation can transform this commensal into an opportunistic pathogen with increased morbidity. In addition, due to decreased CD4+ T cells in immunocompromised patients, secondary host defences play a vital role. This poster presents a brief review regarding Candida - host interactions in HIV disease.