Trichomonas vaginalis and *Candida albicans* among Female Undergraduate Students in Rivers State, Nigeria

[1]Wogu, M. N. and [2]Onoja, H.

[1]Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
[2]Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
Corresponding author: Wogu, M. N., email: michael.wogu@uniport.edu.ng

Abstract

A study was conducted to evaluate the prevalence of *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Candida albicans* amongst female undergraduate students in Rivers State, Nigeria. The study included 400 consenting, randomly selected female undergraduate students at the University of Port Harcourt. Study participants were given sterile universal bottles for urine samples, and sterile cotton swabs were used to collect high vagina swabs. *T. vaginalis* and *C. albicans* were detected in the collected samples using standard laboratory procedures. The chi-square test was used to determine the significance of the data, with $P<0.05$ considered significant. In this study, 5.0% were positive for *T. vaginalis* while 22.5% were positive for *C. albicans*. Regarding age, 16 – 20 years, 21 – 25 years, and 26 – 30 years had prevalence values of 5.9%, 6.4%, and 2.5%, respectively, for *T. vaginalis,* as well as 28.2%, 23.6%, and 13.3%, respectively, for *C. albicans*. Study participants staying off campus had prevalence values of 4.5% and 18.5% for *T. vaginalis* and *C. albicans,* respectively. In comparison, those staying on campus had prevalence values of5.5% and 26.5% for *T. vaginalis* and *C. albicans,* respectively. Study participants in 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 levels had prevalence values of 5.5%, 8.3%, 5.3%, 3.0%, and 2.8%, respectively, for *T. vaginalis,* as well as 20.3%, 33.3%, 21.1%, 24.0%, and 11.1%, respectively, for *C. albicans*. Trichomoniasis and candidiasis are still of public health significance in Rivers State. Periodic public health enlightenment, regular health checks, improved personal hygiene/sanitation, safe sexual activities, accurate diagnosis, and prompt, effective treatment will significantly control sexually transmitted infections.

Keywords: *T. vaginalis*, *C. albicans*, Prevalence, Female Undergraduate Students, Rivers State