

## **Experimental pathogenicity of three opportunist paecilomyces species in a murine model**

*Journal of Medical Mycology*, 12: 86-89, 2002.

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The virulence of *Paecilomyces variotii*, *P. lilacinus* and *P. javanicus*, the most frequent species of *Paecilomyces* in human infections, was compared using a murine model. The mice were immunodepressed with cyclophosphamide and inoculated intravenously with  $1 \times 10^7$  conidia/mouse of one isolate of each of the mentioned species. No significant differences in lethality among the three species were observed ( $p > 0.05$ ). In contrast, fungal recovery from tissue was higher in animals inoculated with *P. variotii* and *P. lilacinus* than with *P. javanicus*. Spleen and liver were the organs most affected, followed by kidneys, heart and lungs. This animal model could be useful for evaluating the efficacy of different antifungal treatments in infections caused by these fungi.