



A Yeast By Any Other Name

Candida spp are common fungal pathogens that can cause invasive infections (e.g. candidemia). They rarely cause [urinary tract infections](#) and do not typically cause [respiratory tract infections](#). Historically *Candida* nomenclature developed through phenotypic classifications. However, this resulted in groupings of organisms with different ancestries. With advances in molecular identification technology, many organisms, once known as *Candida* spp., have been reclassified to better reflect groupings with common ancestry.¹ What are the new names?

Which common specific *Candida* spp. organisms have new names?

Old Name	New Name
<i>Candida auris</i>	<i>Candidozyma auris</i> ²
<i>Candida famata</i>	<i>Debaryomyces hansenii</i> ^{1,3}
<i>Candida glabrata</i>	<i>Nakaseomyces glabrata</i> ^{1,3}
<i>Candida guilliermondii</i>	<i>Meyerozyma guilliermondii</i> ^{1,3}
<i>Candida haemulonii/C. duobushaemulonii</i>	<i>Candidozyma haemulonii/duobushaemulonii</i> ²
<i>Candida kefyr</i>	<i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i> ^{1,3}
<i>Candida krusei</i>	<i>Pichia kudriavzevii</i> ^{1,3}
<i>Candida lipolytica</i>	<i>Yarrowia lipolytica</i> ^{1,3}
<i>Candida lusitanae</i>	<i>Clavispora lusitanae</i> ^{1,3}

What common *Candida* spp. kept their names?

Candida albicans, *Candida dubliniensis*, *Candida parapsilosis*, and *Candida tropicalis* are still recognized with the aforementioned names.³

What are the implications in healthcare?

Education of medical laboratory staff and clinicians is necessary for successful adoption of new nomenclature.¹ Clinical microbiology labs are encouraged to introduce new names in conjunction with the old name (e.g. designated with “previously known as”) to facilitate recognition by frontline clinicians. Well-known literature databases (e.g. PubMed) will incorporate new names into standardized taxonomy to retrieve relevant literature using new and old names.

Key Takeaway: Many fungal pathogens once known as a *Candida* spp. have been reclassified with a new name due to advances in molecular identification technology. If encountering an unfamiliar fungal pathogen, consider possible names changes.

References:

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- Lionakis MS, Edwards JE Jr. *Candida* species. In: Blaser MJ, Cohen JI, Holland SM, eds. *Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases.* 10th ed. Elsevier; 2026:3089-104.e3.