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**RARE CANDIDA ALBICANS OVERGROWTH IN AN IMMUNOSUPPRESSED PATIENT: CASE REPORT
OF A MALIGNANT TUMOR-LIKE GASTRIC LESION**

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ABSTRACT

The gastrointestinal tract of healthy individuals is colonized by hundreds of saprophytes: mycetes, especially Candida species, are habitual ones. Under certain conditions, fungal flora may overgrowth, resulting in lesions of the digestive mucosa, which, rarely, might evolve to local diffusion and/or systemic lympho-hematogenous spreading. Mycotic infections of the stomach might, sometimes, look like benign gastric ulcers. Here we described a case of a woman, aged 64, affected by diabetes mellitus and psoriasis, in chronic treatment with immunosuppressive agents (cyclosporine), with endoscopic evidence of ulcerated vegetating gastric lesion, strongly suggestive for malignancy, due to Candida albicans infection, and completely healed after cyclosporine withdrawal and administration of oral antifungal drugs.