



White Fungus

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Why in News

As the central government asks states to notify **black fungus or mucormycosis** an **epidemic**, an infection called white fungus or Candidiasis has also been found to affect some people.

- **Covid-19** patients are **more prone to white fungus** as it affects the lungs and similar symptoms are created like that of coronavirus.
- **Black fungus** is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called **mucormycetes**, which is abundant in the environment.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - **White Fungus or Candidiasis** is a fungal infection caused by a yeast (a type of fungus) called Candida.
 - Candida **normally lives on the skin and inside the body**, in places such as the mouth, throat, gut, and vagina, without causing any problems.
 - Candida **can cause infections** if it grows out of control or if it enters deep into the body (for example, the bloodstream or internal organs like the kidney, heart, or brain).

The most common species that causes infection is **Candida albicans**.
- **Cause:**
 - This infection **can be caused due to low immunity**, or if people come in **contact with** things that contain these **moulds** like water, etc.

Children and women are more at risk of contracting the fungal infection.
 - **Like the black fungus**, white fungus is also more likely to afflict people with compromised **immune systems**, pre-existing medical conditions, **AIDS**, a recent kidney transplant or **diabetes**.

- **Symptoms:**
 - People **experience symptoms similar to Covid** if it reaches the lungs such as chest infection, despite testing negative for the virus.
 - White fungus affects the lungs as well as other parts of the body including the nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth.
- **Diagnosis and Treatment:**
 - **CT scans or X-Rays** can reveal the condition.
 - Patients with the white fungus are currently being treated with known **anti-fungal medication**.
- **Prevention:**
 - Special caution is required of moulds in water that can lead to infection.
 - Proper sanitation is very important.

Source: IE