

Gastrointestinal Disease Associated With Non-*albicans Candida* Species in Six Birds

Kyle A. Donnelly, DVM, MPH, James F. X. Wellehan Jr, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl ACZM, Dipl ACVM (Virology, Bacteriology/Mycology), and Katherine Quesenberry, DVM, MPH, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

Abstract: A non-*albicans Candida* species was identified in 6 birds exhibiting clinical signs associated with gastrointestinal disease. The clinical disease signs noted in these 6 birds included diarrhea, regurgitation, and melena, and were considered concurrent or identified secondary to other comorbidities. *Candida glabrata* was identified in a yellow-naped Amazon parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*), a ring-necked dove (*Streptopelia capicola*), a blue-and-gold macaw (*Ara ararauna*), and 2 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*). *Candida krusei* was identified in a white-crowned parrot (*Pionus senilis*). Fungal culture and matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry identification was correlated with results of fecal and/or crop Gram's stains, and DNA sequencing was used in one case. Three cases resolved after treatment, 2 birds died, and 1 was lost to follow-up. Non-*albicans Candida* infections are an emerging issue in human health care and are known to have an increased resistance to antifungal drugs. Similar to *Candida albicans*, these non-*albicans Candida* species are often identified in patients that have a history of prior antibiotic exposure. Recent data in human medicine describe a shift in species distribution away from *C albicans* dominance and toward other species, including *C glabrata* and *C krusei*. Both species are considered normal flora within the human and bird mycobiota and may emerge to cause disease, especially when the normal gastrointestinal environment has been disrupted.