

Jawhara S, Mogensen E, Maggioro F, Fradin C, Maes E, Sarazin A, Dubuquoy L, Guerardel Y, Janbon G, Poulain D (2012). Murine Model of Dextran Sulfate Sodium-Induced Colitis Reveals *Candida glabrata* Virulence and Contribution of β -Mannosyltransferases. *J Biol Chem.* 287:11313-11324.

Candida glabrata, like *Candida albicans*, is an opportunistic yeast pathogen that has adapted to colonize all segments of the human gastrointestinal tract and vagina. The *C. albicans* cell wall expresses β -1,2- linked mannosides (β -Mans) promoting its adherence to host cells and tissues. As β -Mans are also present in *C. glabrata*, their role in *C. glabrata* colonization and virulence was investigated in a murine model of dextran sulfate sodium (DSS)-induced colitis. Five clustered genes of *C. glabrata* encoding β -mannosyltransferases, BMT2-BMT6, were deleted simultaneously. β -Man expression was studied by Western blotting, flow cytometry and NMR analysis. Mortality, clinical, histologic, and colonization scores were determined in mice receiving DSS and different *C. glabrata* strains. The results show that *C. glabrata bmt2-6* strains had a significant reduction in β -1,2 Man expression and a disappearance of β -1,2 mannobiose in the acid-stable domain. A single gavage of *C. glabrata* wild-type strain in mice with DSS-induced colitis caused a loss of body weight, colonic inflammation, and mortality. Mice receiving *C. glabrata bmt2-6* mutant strains had normal body weight and reduced colonic inflammation. Lower numbers of colonies of *C. glabrata bmt2-6* were recovered from stools and different parts of the gastrointestinal tract. Histopathologic examination revealed that the wild-type strain had a greater ability to colonize tissue and cause tissue damage. These results showed that *C. glabrata* has a high pathogenic potential in DSS-induced colitis where β -Mans contribute to colonization and virulence.