

Chapter 3

Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment - Fungal Endophthalmitis

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Fungal endophthalmitis (FE) is an acute or chronic intraocular inflammation caused mostly by *Candida* and *Aspergillus* species. Fungi can cause both endogenous and exogenous endophthalmitis. The incidence of bloodborne fungal infections may have increased with the boosted number of immunosuppressed patients as well as the use of newer more potent broad-spectrum antibiotics that changes the normal flora.¹⁻⁷ **Table 3.1** lists most frequently isolated fungal agents causing endophthalmitis and related risk factors.

Table 3.1. Most frequently isolated fungal agents causing endophthalmitis and related risk factors.

Fungi	Risk factors
<i>Candida</i> spp	Diabetes mellitus, neutropenia, hyperalimentation, gastrointestinal surgery, prior antibacterial agents
<i>Aspergillus</i> spp	Transplant recipients, neutropenia
<i>Fusarium</i> spp	Neutropenia, intravenous drug abuse, AIDS
<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>	AIDS
<i>Penicillium</i> spp	Intravenous drug abuse, <i>Penicillium</i> -related endocarditis
<i>Coccidioides immitis</i>	Patients with disseminated disease, may occur in otherwise healthy individuals.

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