EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON GROWTH OF THE PATHOGENIC OOMYCETE *PYTHIUM INSIDIOSUM*

Theerapong Krajaejun[1], Piriyaporn Chongtrakool[1], Kanong Angkananukul[1] and Tristan T Brandhorst[2]

[1]Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand; [2]Department of Pediatrics, University of Wisconsin Medical School, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Abstract. *Pythium insidiosum* causes a potentially life-threatening infectious disease called pythiosis. An early, accurate diagnosis is important, since prompt treatment leads to a better prognosis. Unsuccessful attempts to isolate the organism have been associated with specimens subjected to lower temperatures. We analyzed growth of *P. insidiosum* at various temperatures. Culture at low (8ºC) and high (42ºC) temperatures resulted in death or inhibited growth of the organism. Culture under optimal temperatures (28 and 32ºC) was important for successful isolation of *P. insidiosum*.

Key words: *Pythium insidiosum*, pythiosis, oomycete, growth, temperature

Correspondence: Dr Theerapong Krajaejun, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Rama VI Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.
Tel: 66 (0) 2201 1379; Fax: 66 (0) 2201 1611
E-mail: mr_en@hotmail.com