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001301 | **Unique role of candida albicans sensitization in management of asthma patients living underground during military operations in Ukraine**

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**Background:** The relationship between humans and some representatives of yeast microflora are powerful factors in the formation of pathology in allergic diseases. Mold spores such as from *Candida albicans* (*C. albicans*) can be the cause of asthma attacks in patients staying a prolonged time underground in basements under conditions of military operations in the Kharkiv, Ukraine, region. **Method:** 34 patients with asthma (22 women and 12 men aged 21- 56 years) were assessed. Chemiluminescent immune testing was performed to assess Specific IgE to *Candida albicans* (m5).

**Results:** Based on patient histories it was known that these asthmatics had been in controlled condition for  $3\pm 0.3$  years. Their main complaint was persistent throat congestion, which was periodically accompanied by non-productive cough. All asthma patients had been previously examined and were receiving topical corticosteroids. Patients were assessed for specific IgE to *C. albicans*. In 21 (67.6%) patients the mean level of *Candida* allergen specific IgE was 1.47 kU/l (range 0.51- 3.02 kU/l). In 13 patients low levels of Specific IgE to *C. Albicans* (0.1-0.35 kU/l ) were seen.

**Conclusion:** Based on clinical data of asthma patients who stayed in the basement for a long time during military intervention in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 67.8% of examined patients the cause of asthma deterioration was *C. albicans*, which should be considered when assessing further asthma therapy. **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors did not specify any links of interest