Reviewer's report

Title: Statins in Candidemia: Clinical Outcomes From a Matched Cohort Study.

Version: 1 Date: 22 February 2010

Reviewer: Luc de Saint Martin

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

the definition of cases and controls is not clear:
- Case patients ICU were admitted at the onset of candidemia but controls developed candidemia within an ICU (= after ICU admission?)
- comorbid conditions of matching: could you be more specific?
- the common (cases and controls) criteria of inclusion could be pooled in the beginning of "definitions" chapter? Then, what is distinguished cases and controls; else the criteria of matching.

A chart flow could be more clear?

in the statistical analysis:
- Why to neglect the matching in bivariable comparison?
- In the conditional logistic model, you have included the variables with p-value <0.1 (multivariable comparisons of main characteristics) or <0.05 (association with mortality): Why?
- in what way were selected the sample of 30 controls (consecutives, random, ...)?

Lastly, the conclusion of your abstract "statins appear to provide a survival benefit in candidemia" is more optimistic, the statins exposure was not associated with a significant reduced mortality after adjustment for the APACHE2 score.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests