Title: Colonization of pediatric cancer patients with Candida species does not lead to elevated levels of (1->3)-beta-D-glucan, Candida mannan or Candida DNA in serum samples

Authors:
Eiman Mokaddas (e.mokaddas@hsc.edu.kw)
Mona H. Burhamah (bufahad86@hotmail.com)
Zia U. Khan (zkhan@hsc.edu.kw)
Suhail Ahmad (suhaill_ah@hsc.edu.kw)

Version: 3 Date: 12 August 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to comments on Manuscript No. 1202667933474993

Research article: Colonization of pediatric cancer patients with Candida species does not lead to elevated levels of (1->3)-beta-D-glucan, Candida mannan or Candida DNA in serum samples
Eiman Mokaddas, Mona H. Burhamah, Zia U. Khan and Suhail Ahmad
BMC Infectious Diseases

To: Dr. Aristea Velegraki,
BMC Editorial Team

Dear Dr. Velegraki,

Enclosed herewith please find the revised version of the above manuscript. All the changes suggested by the Associate Editor and the Editorial Office have been made and are highlighted in the red font. A point-by-point response is as follows:

**Associate Editor Comments:**

Associate Editor comments:
Page 6; line 11: ? . . . as per manufacturer. ?

Author response:
The text has been modified for greater clarity.

Associate Editor comments:
Page 7; line 10: Please supply Qiagen city and country.

Author response:
The requested information has been provided.

Associate Editor comments:
Page 9; line 3: ?A single isolate. .?

Author response:
The text has been modified for greater clarity.

Associate Editor comments:
Page 9; line 14: ? . . one anatomic site. .?

Author response:
The text has been modified for greater clarity.

Associate Editor comments:
Page 13; line 13 and elsewhere in the text: As the authors use the Pittet et al. scoring system, it is suggested to use the term ?colonization index? rather than ?colonization score?.

Author response:
The text has been modified as suggested.

Associate Editor comments:
Page 12; lines 4-5: ?Also, Candida DNA was not detected in the serum samples of the colonized patients by the semi-nested PCR used.?

Author response:
The text has been modified as suggested.

Associate Editor comments:
Table 3: Please maintain in title either ?serum samples? OR ?sera? and define SD.

Author response:
The text has been modified as suggested.

Associate Editor comments:
Figure 1. Higher analysis image required to help the reader visualize the amplification products. Where these products sequenced to confirm their identity? If yes, then a more realistic figure demonstrating amplicon quantity that would render each of them eligible for sequencing, has to be provided.

Author response:
The quality of the Figure has been improved. The amplicons shown in the Figure were not used for sequencing. The sequencing was carried out on amplicons (~500-600 bp) obtained with ITS1 and ITS4 primers.

**Editorial request:**

The Abstract has been modified as requested.

We hope that the revised version is acceptable for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

Eiman Mokaddas
Professor