Reviewer's report

**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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 March 2010

**Reviewer:** Emmanuel Roilides

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major compulsory revisions**
More information has to be given about 'persistently colonized patients'. Was there any difference in BDG and mannan values between persistent and not persistent colonized patients?
Information has to be given about the time of serum collection. Weekly; Only when the first swabs were taken? Could be possible time of serum collection to impact BDG and mannan results?

**Minor essential revisions**
Language needs to be improved. Too long sentences, wrong words, unclear meaning.
For example: spp. instead of species when plural, 'were' instead of 'was' page 7 line 7, 'isolates' instead of 'an isolate' page 8 line 15, 'possible' has to be omitted page 4, line 14, etc
'The ' has to be omitted in several points, such as:
'the isolates' page 2 line 13, 'the colonized' page 2 line 15, 'the yeast isolates' page 5 line 13, 'The DNA' page 7 line 2 and line 4, 'the cases' page 11 line 9, 'the patients' page 11 line 12 etc

The following sentences have to be rewritten due to unclear meaning and/or language mistakes:
Page 2 line 13 'the isolates...'
Page 4 line 7 'there is now...'
Page 5 line 2: 'During.....'
Page 5 line 5 'Colonization was defined...'
Page 7 line 8 'To detect...'
Page 8 line 20 'Using SPSS....'
Page 9 lines 6-18 'The results....' .
Page 11, lines 2-5 'Being the part....'.
Page 11 lines 8-11 'The two patients....'
Page 11 lines 11-15 'Recently....' more information has to be written in order to be clearly understandable.

How many of the randomly selected isolates were further confirmed? (page 9 line 10).

Accept after minor essential revision

Descretionary revisions

It would be helpful to include tables patient orientated.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests