Reviewer's report

**Title:** Invasive fungal sinusitis in patients with hematological malignancy: 15 years experience in a single university hospital in Taiwan

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 April 2011

**Reviewer:** Michel Wolff

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This is a retrospective study of invasive fungal sinusitis (IFS) in patients with haematological malignancy. They compared clinical characteristics and outcomes of IFS with those of patients with sinusitis of other origin. They identified surgical debridement as an independent factor associated with good outcome. Although this study provides some interesting information, I am concerned by the following issues:

A. Methods section

1. The non IFS group (64 patients) should be better defined: how were these patients chosen? Do the authors perform systematic sinus imaging in patients with haematological malignancy? How was defined non IFS? How many patients had sinus samples taken with subsequent cultures?
2. What was the cut-off for positive Aspergillus galactomannan test?
3. Concerning statistics, could the authors indicate how they chose variables which were introduced in the multivariate analysis?

B. Results section

- Among the 25 patients with proven IFS, how many had a positive biopsy specimen and how many had positive culture results?
- Could the authors indicate the species among the 4 Mucor?
- Some additional data concerning Aspergillus galactomannan antigen should be interesting, for example the mean value (+/- SD) in the seven patients with positive results
- What were the dose and duration of antifungal therapy?
- Could the authors provide some information on the interval between diagnosis and surgical debridement?

C. Discussion

The authors should start the discussion by better summarizing the main results including the protective effect of surgical debridement which is really a key message of their study.

D. Table 1

- How many patients received Amphotericin B vs Ambisome?
- At the bottom of the table, something is probably missing: “Amphotericin B and
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests’ below