Reviewer's report

Title: A risk factor analysis of healthcare-associated fungal infections in an intensive care unit: a retrospective cohort study.

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Reviewer: Emmanuel Roilides

Reviewer's report:

1. Although the authors refer to health-care associated infections, the risk factors they quote mainly refer to BSIs- however in the manuscript they do not even mention the rate of various infections (RTI, UTI, BSI, surgical site etc) in their patients. It would also be useful that the risk factor analysis is according to the type of infection. Moreover, the authors do not define criteria used for respiratory tract infections, as Candida infection of the respiratory tract is known to be difficult to prove. Similarly, they should define “sputum cultures” - how they were taken and in which patients (ventilated or not).

2. There are some queries as to the data of the 11 patients the authors mention explicitly: in the third patient with two episodes of UTI, what was the time interval in between and in the fourth patient the 2 episodes of CVC tip and BSI 1 week later isn’t it more likely to represent the same BSI?

3. Finally, as the authors have collected environment samples from patients with HAI’s it would be useful to do so in the environment of patients without HAI’s to see whether there were any differences.

4. Two other comments regarding their results are that it appears that the rise in HAI’s is parallel to the rise of UTI’s while BSIs increase to a much lesser extent and at the same time there is a rise mainly in C. albicans. How do they comment on that?

5. The authors state that "along this trend, these infections occurred more often in the non-neutropenic, critically ill patients than the traditional hosts..."- apparently they mean more often than in the past, but this should be rephrased.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests