Reviewer’s report

Title: Molecular Characterization and Antifungal Susceptibility Profile of Aspergillus flavus Isolates Recovered from Clinical Specimens in Kuwait

Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: Parisa Badiee

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Major comments:

1. The authors need to write more in Discussion about why they have used the methodology in their study. For example, in Molecular characterization section of Methodology they should explain why they have used identification of B-tubulin gene and calmodulin gene, while they have detected the species using DNA sequencing which suffices for finding the species.

2. In antifungal susceptibility testing, they have compared three different methods neither of which is standard. They should have used a standard method to make the comparison.

3. Since the study was carried out over an 18 year period, we expect some genetic differences and different susceptibility patterns during this long period. But the authors have included no details about this important fact. So more discussion about it is needed.

4. In Discussion Paragraph 2, it is said that none of the isolates came from a proven case, but in Conclusion of Abstract it is said that 92 clinical isolates were identified. These sound contradictory and requires clarification.

5. In Conclusion section, it is said that the work was the first in the Middle East. But it is not so, and one references as follows are introduced:


6. The Discussion section is actually the inclusion of many references some of which belonging to the same authors. It is of no significance in terms of the findings of the study itself and thus the Discussion needs to be carefully revised taking into account the results of the study in Kuwait.

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’ below