Reviewer's report

Title: A multiplex nested PCR for the detection and identification of Candida species in blood samples of critically ill paediatric patients

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2014

Reviewer: Shirish Huprikar

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is an interesting study and well written manuscript.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. Since 38 patients (70.4%) received empiric antifungal therapy and only 13 had candidemia the authors should discuss whether antifungal therapy could have been discontinued in the other 25 patients and consider the utility of their assay in improving antifungal stewardship. This is particularly relevant since all 13 patients with candidemia were already receiving antifungal therapy.

2. Would provide median and range of time to positivity for the positive blood cultures. This will provide for a more precise comparison to the 24h for the assay

3. Would comment on whether their assay is currently only performed as a research tool or if it is used for clinical purposes. And if used clinically, is it performed 7 days a week?

4. In the discussion would comment on how their assay performs compared to similar assays (e.g. the assay in reference 14).

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

1. On line 118 would favor "Cultures were obtained" rather than "established."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'