Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of an early step-down strategy from IV anidulafungin to oral azole therapy for the treatment of candidemia and other forms of invasive candidiasis: results from an open-label trial

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2013

Reviewer: David Horn

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper; however, there are a number of limitations due to the design of this study. The major limitation of this study is the inability to make comparisons directly between different groups of patients. This has been noted by the authors.

The authors report extensively on two populations only, the MITT population of 250 patients and the early switchers comprised of 102 patients. In reality, there appears to be two other groups: 48 late switchers and 100 non-switchers. Where these populations different? Also, some mortality data is reported; however, the authors might consider presenting length of survival curves separately for the populations of interest.

Overall, the real conclusion for this paper should state for those patients that were switched by their physicians to early oral azole therapy, there appeared to be no significant issues regarding such switch. In addition, the authors should better detail how patients were selected to be an early switcher or not as a limitation of the study. I would likely recommend acceptance of this manuscript after the authors have adequately addressed these comments.

Specifically, the conclusion that patients could safely receive oral therapy should be caveated better. Namely, these patients had been selected to switch and were likely less ill than those who did not switch or not likely to have GI issues affecting oral absorption.

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:

Consultant: Astellas