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: 3 Date: 24 September 2013

Reviewer: David Ritchie

Reviewer's report:

In the author's response to an initial request that they consider providing Candida susceptibility data, they indicate that "Susceptibilities were confirmed for all Candida isolates obtained from this study." Does this author statement mean that all Candida isolates were susceptible to all agents used, or merely that susceptibility testing was performed on all isolates? I did not see this clarification addressed in the revision, unless I am missing it. I still contend that it is warranted for the authors to explicitly address the issue of Candida susceptibility verification in the paper, and also provide the actual susceptibility results obtained. Even a general comment (if indeed true), along the lines of "....all isolates were documented susceptible to the agents utilized..." would suffice. In support of this contention, the authors state in their Background, paragraph 4, lines 6-9 that the most recent guidelines (ESCMID) endorse oral switch therapy if the isolate is susceptible to the agent being switched to,

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Declaration of competing interests: Astellas, Forest, Merck