Reviewer’s report

Title: Uniform distribution of three Candida albicans microsatellite markers in two French ICU populations supports a lack of nosocomial cross-contamination

Version: 2 Date: 20 July 2006

Reviewer: anna maria AM tortorano

Reviewer’s report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

English language should be revised.

Page 3
line 5: insert the achronymous (ICU)
line 15: replace â€œintensive care unit (ICU)â€ with â€œICUâ€

Page 8
Line 3: the term â€œrisk factorsâ€ is not correct if you consider all colonized patients (at admission and after 72 hours)
Line 19: what does â€œcommonâ€ mean?
Line 22: â€œincludingâ€ should be changed in â€œcharacterized by CDC3â€¦..â€

Page 9
Line 4: what does â€œalsoâ€ mean?
Line 6: the genotypes of hospital A are 29, not 37 as you mention and those of hospital B are 24 and not 30.
Line 8: Tables 3-5 are non essential as the data are summarized in Table 6.
Line 9-10: the sentence â€œTable â€¦â€ should be clarified

Page 10
Line 3-4: patients shared a multilocus genotype (that represents the most frequent genotype in C. albicans population) not isolates
Line 16-18: sentence should be clarified.
Line 22-24: the lower percentage of positive cultures in hospital B could be attributed to the use of oral amphotericin B.

Page 11
Line 7: C. albicans should be added to â€œpopulation specificâ€
Line 20-25 and line 1-4 page 12: the sentences of this paragraph should be shortened focusing the attention on the usefulness of PMM in the screening of a large number of isolates. The sentences concerning the methods (already reported in the right section) should be omitted.

Page 12
Line 10-13: The absence of nosocomial contamination may be related to the application of good clinical practices, that should not to be disregarded. Therefore the sentence (Line 12-4) â€œTherefore, attempts â€¦â€ has to be deleted.

Table 1
Title: table refers to patients who were colonized (56 and 43), not to patients who acquired colonization after 72 hours (45 and 36)
Table 2
Title: source instead of body location

Table 6.
Title: the sentence “The most” must be deleted as comment;
Heading of the last two columns: the number is of patients, not of isolates

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests’