Reviewer's report

Title: Antifungal Prophylaxis in Chemotherapy-Associated Neutropenia: a Retrospective, Observational Study

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2006

Reviewer: matteo bassetti

Reviewer's report:

This a retrospective, observational study in which the authors try to analyse the differences in cost, breakthrough infections and adverse events between smphotericin B and azoles. There are several limitations in the study and the conclusions appear harried and approximates. The authors don’t specife the dosages used for amphotericin B and azoles neither the mode of administration. The most important limitation of the paper is that the use of voriconazole in febrile neutropenia has not been approved by FDA, following the results of the Walsh et al. study, published on New Engl J Med. I think that the paper in this form is not acceptable for publication. A pharmacist journal should be more appropriate.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Please specify dosages and mode of administration of antifungals
Specify
- the gravity score of the patients (Apache) and WBC counts
- Number and types of concomitant mediations
- Reasons for discontinuation of antifungals

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

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