Reviewer's report

Title: Distribution of Malassezia species on the skin of patients with atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, and healthy volunteers assessed by conventional and molecular identification methods

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Reviewer: Georgios Gaitanis

Reviewer's report:

I have read with interest the article by Jagielski et al, which reports on the epidemiology and identification of Malassezia yeasts from patients with atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and controls. Furthermore an effort to assess in vitro the activity of six common antifungal agents against the isolates is performed.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Abstract. Try to shorten the introduction and put in the results statistically significant observations (M sympodialis is AD) as well as a phrase on the identification comparison and MIC

2. Results. As the article states to report on the isolation rate of Malassezia species I would suggest to move the "Distribution section" first, and start it by denoting the use of molecular methods for evaluating the results. Put a simple Table for the frequencies (absolute and %) for the isolated species and state the level of significance. In the present "Distribution of Malassezia species" (Page 15) the first paragraph is confusing without reporting statistically significant findings. A Table to include these findings would be more reader friendly. Remember to state the level of significance.

3. Discussion. The discussion has to focus on the key points which is the isolation of M. sympodialis from AD and the discrepancy of phenotypic and molecular identifications results. For example, referel with 9 References to pityriasis versicolor and seborrhoeic dermatitis epidemiological data is redundant, as the paper does not address this issue.

4. Table 1. Drug susceptibility pattern column is redundant as it is collectively assesed in Table 3. Furthermore, safe statistical data on MIC and disease cannot be extraced as the testing was randomly performed in few strains

Minor Essential Revisions

None.

Discretionary Revisions

In the introduction a comment on the extensive basic research performed by Scheynious on the Malassezia sympodialis and atopic dermatitis would be helpful as the authors mainly report on this species.
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 have no competing interests