Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Host factors do not influence the colonization or infection by fluconazole resistant Candida species in hospitalized patients

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 October 2008

**Reviewer number:** 1

Reviewer’s report:

Reviewer #1:

The authors tried to find a link between intrinsic host factors of patients and colonization or infection by fluconazole resistant Candida species. To establish the correlation between them, a series of clinical samples from 88 patients in 22 Taiwanese hospitals had been isolated. According to the results, the authors suggested that there is no difference in frequency between fluconazole resistant and susceptible Candida species to colonize or infect patients according to the host factors analyzed, except patients with pulmonary disease.

Major comments

1. Most of the Candida species samples were isolated from elder patients (age of 65.5 in average). Does the age factor affects the host factors analyzed in this study?

2. Based on the conclusions, the anti-tuberculosis agents used to cure pulmonary disease were considered to enhance the colonization occurrence or infection of fluconazole resistant strains. Some explanations and discussions will be helpful. (For example, any previous studies of Candida spp. correlated with pulmonary disease and/or tuberculosis? Is there any relevance of previous studies to this study?)

3. In a previous study published by the same group (Yang et al., 2003 J Microbiol Immunol Infect, 36: 187-91), the authors found that “there is an association between the rate of fluconazole resistance and the number of non-albicans Candida species collected from different regions and hospital types”. It seems that the same set of samples (TSARY program in 1999) was used in this study. However, only the samples from 9 of the 22 hospitals were chosen in this study. What were the criteria for this selection? How do the Candida samples used in this study correlate to the conclusion in the previous study? It would be helpful to have some explanations.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.