Reviewer's report

Title: Safety and efficacy of amphotericin-B deoxycholate inhalation in critically ill patients with respiratory Candida spp. colonization: a retrospective analysis.

Version: 2 Date: 11 August 2014

Reviewer: Evangelos Giamarellos-Bourboulis

Reviewer's report:

The authors provide some analysis on retrospective data on the impact of inhalation with ABDC as part of the SDD regimen in the event of colonization of the airways with Candida spp.

Major compulsory revisions

• My main concern is the way the data are presented. I feel that this leads to some confusion. I do understand that the retrospective nature of the study and the lack of a placebo arm generate difficulties but I do believe that the manuscript would substantially profit if the authors choose to present their data in a more simplistic way. More precisely, I cannot understand the repetitive need to indicate in the Figure and table legends and in the context of the tables, the split of the ABDC group into time from colonization to therapy and from time to therapy until final outcome. In my view, the authors should choose from the very beginning, as they do to some extent, what has happened from a certain time point of colonization in each group, as if it was a randomized trial and then compare. If this is not possible, then they should select from the cohort well-matched cases and controls.

• I would prefer to see Figures 2 and 3 with the curves moving cumulatively upwards to the right instead of the current survival design

Minor essential revisions

• None.

Discretionary revisions

None

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 declare that I have no competing interests