Reviewer’s report

Title: The epidemiology, antifungal use and risk factors of death in elderly patients with candidemia: a multicentre retrospective study

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Reviewer: Bradley Ford

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This manuscript by Wang wt al. outlines the epidemiology and outcomes related to Candida bloodstream infection in Shandong, China. While the data are mostly confirmatory of findings by others elsewhere, it is true that the local epidemiology of Candida is variable and this was not necessarily the expected outcome. The conclusions drawn are justified from the data, apart from a lack of clarity about what fluconazole resistance was present.

Major comments:
1) The latest CLSI guidelines are being used here. Still, there is uncertainty over what is being defined as “resistant”. Page 8, line 22 states 10 of 59 isolates were resistant from young patients. First, per the previous paragraph I count 58 isolates, not 59. Secondly, there is no susceptible category for C. glabrata anymore -- are authors counting the “SDD” category as susceptible, considering that differences in dosage might be needed to cover it? Secondly, which non-albicans yeast were nonsusceptible, and were the C. krusei counted in this group? If it is made clear what isolates were resistant it will be easier to appreciate why the rate of resistance was double in the elderly; this data should be presented and discussed on page 12 (top).

2) Summarizing some of the main demographics and findings should be done in the main text.

3) Epidemiology, microbiology and statistics associated with Candida species should be placed in the main text.

Minor comments:
While overall well-written, some editing for English usage should be done prior to publication. Currently these do not obscure the intended meaning.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.