Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 16 July 2014

Reviewer: Geraldine Hall

Reviewer’s report:

Major revisions

1. Was the age of the elderly patient for the study defined before or after the data was collected? It should have been done before. I would like the authors to consider adjusting the "test" and "control" groups that were compared, for example analyze the date for those above 60 or 65 and those between 16 and 50 or 55. Have a larger than 1 year difference between the young and the elderly. What was the exact range of the age groups? Please give the range of ages for each group.

2. Was anti-fungal susceptibility testing done? If so, the results should be provided. One of your conclusions is that there was more resistance of the non C. albicans cases, and this information should be provided.

Minor essential revisions

1. There are a number of occurrences where an "s" was used instead of "z", for example, hospitalization and colonization and hypothesized and characterize in Background. In Materials and Methods, standardized;

2. In Materials and Methods and In Abstract, 4 tertiary centers were used to collect the data but in the Discussion, the first statement suggests that strength of study is the use of 5 centers. Please clarify.

Discretionary Revisions

1. In the discussion, you mention prior exposure as a reason for increased resistance. Was there any attempt to document prior anti-fungal exposures between the young group and the elderly?

2. Please define if any chart review was done to determine whether candidemia was indeed evidence of an infection or transient fungemia? Provide a definition of how this was determined.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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