Reviewer’s report

Title: A survey of fungal microbiota in airways of healthy volunteer subjects from Puglia (Apulia), Italy

Version: 0 Date: 30 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Peter Wilson

Reviewer's report:

The term 'photograph' is not appropriate - suggest survey or description. The sample of volunteers was small and it is not clear if it is representative. Geographical variation is not known. The results are likely to reflect spores common in the air of the region and be changed by weather and season. Therefore a longitudinal study would be useful to determine the colonization duration, as mentioned in the discussion. Selective media were used - as this was a descriptive study looking for any fungi were there any not likely culturable on these media. Could PCR be performed on the original samples? The number of patients is too small to correlate effectively with respiratory diseases. A larger number of apients should be tested and over a longer period.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable


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