Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and Antifungal Susceptibility of Candida albicans Causing Vulvovaginitis Among Pregnant Women in Lebanon

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr Papadimitriou-Olivgeris Matthaios

Editor
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Subject: Revision (Second revision) and resubmission of manuscript INFD-D-19-01372

Dear Dr Papadimitriou-Olivgeris Matthaios,

Thank you for reviewing our comments and for sending your new suggestions to improve the manuscript.

We have included the reviewers comments (In red) immediately after this letter and responded to their questions. The highlighted phrases in yellow were modified in the manuscript. The tables format were fixed and were added at the relevant location in the text. We are happy to consider further revisions if needed, and we thank you so much for your inputs.

Sincerely,
Mira El Chaar
Reviewer reports:

Maria Drogari-Apiranthitou, MD, PhD (Reviewer 1): The revised manuscript is much improved. However, there are still some minor points for consideration.

1. Abstract. Please use either frequent or common, as "frequently common" is redundancy. I personally prefer frequent.

The correction was done.

2. Background, line 10. It would be more accurate to state: "VVC is the result of Candida albicans in 85-95 % of cases whereas incidence rate of Non-C. albicans Candida (NCAC) in pregnant and non pregnant women is less than 10%, as reviewed [7], based on older studies."

The correction was done.

3. Results, page 7, line 11. The statement that "C. albicans has significant effects on gestational diabetes" is not accurate. Please replace: "The Chi-square test revealed that C.albicans was significantly associated only with patients with gestational diabetes." The same in p. 10, line 21. Furthermore, "and both C.krusei and C.glabrata were associated with gestational complications".

The corrections were done.

4. In data collection, p. 5, line 1, the gestational complications should be defined.

The gestational complications were defined as follows: The 165 participants were followed up after delivery to gather information about delivery time, delivery type, induced labor, gestational complications (intrahepatic cholestasis, mitral valve prolapse, asthma, hypothyroidism, oligohydramnios and gestational thrombocytopenia) and neonatal outcomes (newborn height, weight and apgar score).

5. Fig.1. If this figure is based on own literature research, it should be presented in the Results section. In the Methods the authors can give a short description on how the search was performed, under a new heading (eg. Literature research), after "Data collection".

We did the modifications as recommended; we added a short paragraph in the method section under the following title: Literature search. The paragraph added was the following: To compare the distribution of Candida species isolated from women genital tract in different countries, a Pubmed search was performed that included articles published in the last ten years. Fifteen articles were selected and summarized in Figure 1.

They could also add a recent epidemiological research from Greece: Maraki S, Mavromanolaki VE,

The reference was added in the text and the data of the article in figure 1.

The figure title could be changed in: "Distribution of Candida species isolated from vaginal swabs of women from various countries after 2010". The corresponding text in the Discussion should be also changed accordingly.

The changes were done as recommended.

6. Discussion p. 9, lines 19-21. Please use the same order and parameter, and rephrase eg. "Resistance rates of C. albicans to VCZ, FCZ, and ICZ in this study were 2.5%, 10%, and 12.5%, respectively, which are different than earlier data from Lebanon reporting 3-6%, 0-6% and 38% resistance, respectively.", so that they can be immediately compared by the reader.

The changes were done as recommended.

7. Page 10, line 12, Please use "we aimed to find correlations" instead of "to correlate".

The changes were done as recommended.

8. Table 1. What does "missing" stand for? Please explain in a footnote, along with the gestational complications observed in this study.

We added the following footnote to table 1 as following: “Missing” are missing data since patients’ information were not provided; those were excluded from the analysis. Gestational complications include intrahepatic cholestasis, mitral valve prolapse, asthma, hypothyroidism, oligohydramnios and gestational thrombocytopenia.

9. Table 3. "p value &lt;0.05 was considered significant".

Correction was done.

10. Table 4. "Gestational Diabetes mellitus" and "P value &lt;0.05 was considered significant".

Correction were done.
11. There are still some spelling errors of C. krusei: eg. page 7, line 14, page 10 lines 14 and 22 and in Table 3.

The manuscript was revised and spelling errors were corrected.

Terezinha Svidzinski (Reviewer 2):

The authors answered most of the suggestions; however, there are still some spelling errors that need to be reviewed.
For instance:

C. kreusi (Page 7, line 14 and page 10 line 22) Candida continues being written without italics in many places, please check it The word "species" (page 7, line 8) was written in italic The correct expression is Non-C. albicans Candida (NCAC), please correct it in abstract (page 2, line 19).
Page 10, line 7 (invasive, not Invasive) The tables are not in correct format and need to be revised before to be accepted for publication.

The corrections were done and the tables were revised as recommended by the journal

Please, read carefully the entire manuscript, correcting other possible errors.

The manuscript was revised for possible errors and corrected