Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 26 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Maria Drogari-Apiranthitou

Reviewer's report:

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.

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."

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".

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

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". They could also add a recent epidemiological research from Greece: Maraki S, Mavromanolaki VE, Stafylaki D, Nioti E, Hamilos G, Kasimati A. Epidemiology and antifungal susceptibility patterns of Candida isolates from Greek women with vulvovaginal candidiasis. Mycoses. 2019 Aug;62(8):692-697. 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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

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