Reviewer’s report

Title: Current patient perspectives of vulvovaginal candidiasis: incidence, symptoms, management and post-treatment outcomes

Version: 0 Date: 19 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Werner Mendling

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

congratulations for an excellently researched and critically discussed article! I have no recommendations for corrections. But I have two proposals/comments:

- you could add the some days before published article of Denning DW, Kneale M, Sobel JD and Rautemaa-Richardson: Global burden of recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis: a systematic review. Lancet Infect Dis 2018, in the references and add a short sentence in the introduction or discussion to the global burden of this disease.

- you mention the clinical outcomes of VVC/RVVC: relief rate considerably lower in women with OTC treatment (15.6% no-relief treatment by a physician vs. 42.6% no-relief by treatment of the patient). You mention, that the diagnosis could be incorrect. Denning et al. (2018) (see above) pronounce this fact clearer and mention also ”vulvar vestibulitis“ as cause for burning...”.

Farmer et al. (Farmer et al.: Repeated vulvovaginal fungal infections cause persistent pain in a mouse model of vulvodynia.

Sci Transl Med 2011; 3: 101ra91) showed, that Candida albicans can trigger persistent pain/burning and so cause vestibulodynia, which is often (in my personal experience mostly!) misdiagnosed as Candida vulvovaginitis. It is probable, that a high amount of the no-relief cases are misdiagnosed by patients, but also physicians, and indeed vestibulodynia, but also possible, that both (recurrent) Candida vulvovaginitis in the beginning and later vestibulodynia exist together.

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

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1. Yes: Admiral A.A. Barcelona/Spain and Galderma R&D Sophia Antipolis/France spent fees for scientific advice in antifungal therapy

2. - 6. no
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