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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Molecular Identification of *Candida* Species Isolated from Onychomycosis with *In Vitro* Antifungal Susceptibility Profiles

Mohammad Hosein Afsarian, Zahra Sharafi

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

3 comments · 21 Aug 2023 – 23 Aug 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 21 Aug 2023

The manuscript is well written but still needs some corrections and modifications that must be made to this paper as follows:
- The first letter of all the fungal names must be capitalized throughout the paper.
- The names of all four antifungals must be mentioned in the abstracts (lines 10, 64).
- The PCR identification section (line 55) must be explained in more detail. Please mention the PCR conditions (timetable, number of cycles, temperature for annealing, …) for primary PCR and RFLP separately (lines 58-60).
- English grammar and phrasing must be improved.

Referee 2 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 23 Aug 2023

The manuscript needs grammar and writing corrections throughout.
All of the fungal names have to be italicized.
Line 2: "Onychomycosis is one of the most common" is correct.
Line 6: The main aim of the study was to determine abundance, not prevalence.
Line 49: Please provide details of sampling, such as sample selection. From which part of the nail were the samples collected?
Line 52: Were the culture media supplemented with chloramphenicol or not?
Line 53: Did you know that all isolates were Candida spp. (given the 2-day incubation period)?
Line 58-59: Please check your primers.
Line 64: Why are there 44 Candida species, and where are the rest?
Line 72: Please describe the susceptibility test in detail.
Line 2: Were all of the specimens positive on direct examination and also in culture media (51/51)? Did you culture all 140 samples, with only 51 samples testing positive, as on direct examination? And did you grow any filamentous fungi?
Line 102-113: This paragraph is too long.
Line 172: You can add the low resistance of Candida to anticandidal drugs.
Line 203: Please check the last column of your table 1.
Line 210: Please check some references for compliance with the journal's format.

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 23 Aug 2023

Reviewer 1:
Public Comment:
The manuscript is well written but still needs some corrections and modifications as follows:
- The first letter of all the fungal names must be capitalized throughout the paper.
- The names of all four antifungals must be mentioned in the abstracts (lines 10, 64).
- The PCR identification section (line 55) must be explained in more detail. Please mention the PCR conditions (timetable, number of cycles, temperature for annealing, …) for primary PCR and RFLP separately (lines 58-60).

- English grammar and phrasing must be improved.
Decision:
Minor revision

Reviewer 2:
Public Comment:
The manuscript needs grammar and writing corrections throughout.
All of the fungal names have to be italicized.
Line 2: "Onychomycosis is one of the most common" is correct.
Line 6: The main aim of the study was to determine abundance, not prevalence.
Line 49: Please specify the details of sampling, such as sample selection and which part of the nail the samples were collected from.
Line 52: Were the culture media supplemented with chloramphenicol or not?
Line 53: Did you know all isolates were Candida spp. (based on 2 days of incubation)?
Line 58-59: Please check your primers.
Line 64: Why 44 candida species, and where are the rest?
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Line 203: Please check the last column of your table 1.
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Decision:
Major revision

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Manuscript Number: ID 139906

Molecular Identification of Candida species isolated from onychomycosis with in vitro antifungal susceptibility profiles

Dr. Editor in Chief
We thank you and the anonymous reviewers for the meticulous and rapid review of our manuscript; entitled" Molecular Identification of Candida species isolated from onychomycosis with in vitro antifungal susceptibility profiles "ID 139906". We have revised the manuscript for the 1st time according to the suggestions and highlighted the textual changes in yellow colored text. We hope that our revision has improved the paper to a level of their satisfaction. Answers to each of their comments/suggestions/queries are as outlined below:

Reviewer 1:

All of the fungal names have to italic forms.

Author's answer: Thanks for critical comment, performed.

Line 2: Onychomycosis is one of the most common, is correct.

Author's answer: was corrected.

Line 6: the main aim of the study was determination of Abundance, not prevalence.

Author's answer: was corrected.

Line 49: Please determine detail of sampling, such as sample choice, and the samples were catch from which part of nail?

Author's answer: Thanks for critical comment, the Line 49, was corrected, and detail of sampling was added.

Line 52: Is the culture media were supplemented with chloramphenicol or without it?

Author's answer: Thanks for critical comment, the Line 52, was corrected, and supplemented with chloramphenicol was added.

Line 53: Did you knew all isolates were Candida spp. (according to 2 days incubation)?

Author's answer: Yes, all isolates were Candida spp. that introductory identified by CHROMagar *Candida* medium and then PCR-RFLP.

Line 58-59: Please check your primers.

Author's answer: Thanks for critical comment, the Line 59, primers was corrected.

Line 64: Why 44 candida species, where are the rest?

Author's answer: Thanks for critical comment, the Line 64, 51 *Candida* species was corrected.

Line 72: Please write the susceptibility test in details.

Author's answer: The susceptibility test in details was added.

Line 82: Are all of the specimens were positive in direct examination and also in culture media (51/51)? Did you cultured all 140 samples, and only 51 sample, same as direct examination? And did you grown any filamentous fungi?

Author's answer: Yes, all 140 samples was cultured, and only 51 sample were positive, same as direct examination. The onychomycosis by filamentous fungi was detected from some patients but we will report them separately in another paper as case series, and it was not included in this statistic's paper.

Line 102-113: this paragraph is too much long.

Author's answer: To continue the discussion, writing this paragraph seems necessary, some parts were deleted and corrected.

Line 172: You can add the low resistance of candida against anticandidal drugs.

Author's answer: The sentence of "Fortunately, in this study, most *Candida* isolates were susceptible to antifungal drugs, and had low resistance against triazoles." was added to line 157.

Line 203: Please check your table 1: the last column.

Author's answer: Table 1: the last column is correct according to reference of 14 "Mohammadi R, Mirhendi H, Rezaei-Matehkolaei A, Ghahri M, Shidfar MR, Jalalizand N, et al. Molecular identification and distribution profile of Candida species isolated from Iranian patients. Medical Mycology. 2013(0):1-7." *Candida parapsilosis complex* includes *Candida parapsilosis, Candida metapsilosis and Candida orthopsilosis* that size of *ITS* PCR and RFLP (bp) of them are 530, 531 and 510, respectively.

Line 210: Please check some references, for journal format matching.

Author's answer: All references for journal format matching was corrected.

Reviewer 2:

The manuscript is well written but still needs some corrections and modifications that must be run on this paper as follows:

- The first letter of all the fungal names must be changed to capital throughout the paper.

Author's answer: Thanks for critical comment, performed.

- The name of all four antifungals must be mentioned in abstracts (lines 10, 64).

Author's answer: The name of all four antifungals (lines 10, 68)

- The PCR identification section (line 55) must more explain. Please mention PCR condition (timetable, number of cycles, temperature for annealing,…..) for primary PCR and RFLP , separately(lines 58-60).

Author's answer: The PCR and RFLP condition in details was added.

- English grammar and phrases must improve.

Author's answer: was performed.

2 Revision 1

0 comments

No public comments in this round.