Title: Antifungal sensitivity and virulence factors of Candida spp. blood isolates from Hospital das Clínicas of Ribeirão Preto Medical School (HC - FMRP)

Authors: Canela, H.M.S.¹, Cardoso, B.¹, Vitali, L.H.², Martinez, R.², Ferreira, M.E.S.¹.

Institution: ¹ FCFRP – USP – Faculdade de Ciências Farmacêuticas de Ribeirão Preto – Universidade de São Paulo (Avenida do Café, s/n°, 14040-903, Ribeirão Preto - SP); ² HC FMRP – USP – Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto – Universidade de São Paulo (Campus Universitário s/n°, 14048-900, Ribeirão Preto – SP)

Abstract:

Candida species are the fourth most frequent pathogen which causes bloodstream infection and they are responsible for more than 85% of fungal invasive infections. Candidemia can present up to 50% of mortality rate and are mainly caused by Candida albicans, C. parapsilosis, C. glabrata and C. tropicalis. There are differences on these species’ prevalence, antifungal sensitivity and virulence factors production. Besides, the isolates of the same species can present different profiles, which make their characterization important. Therefore, the aim of this work was to characterize bloodstream isolates of C. albicans, C. glabrata, C. parapsilosis and C. tropicalis from patients of HC - FMRP. Fifty bloodstream isolates were used. The activity of the hydrolytic enzymes phospholipase, proteinase and haemolysin was measured using specific culture media. The sensitivity profile against amphotericin B, caspofungin, fluconazole and voriconazole was done using CLSI guidelines of disk diffusion and broth microdilution. As expected, C. albicans was the most predominant species (42%), followed by C. glabrata (24%), C. parapsilosis (20%) and C. tropicalis (14%). Only the C. albicans isolates showed phospholipase activity. Proteinase activity was showed by C. albicans, C. tropicalis and C. parapsilosis isolates. All species showed haemolysin activity. None of the isolates were resistant to the tested antifungals. However, the caspofungin and fluconazole MICs were lower for C. albicans than for the other species, which is usual. The prevalence of C. albicans and C. parapsilosis were consistent to the usually described range in Brazil. The C. tropicalis prevalence was a little lower than the usually described in Brazil and the C. glabrata prevalence was higher than the usually described. The rising of candidemia caused by C. glabrata has been described and it has been related to previous treatment with fluconazole. These four species are able to produce proteinase, phospholipase and haemolysin, however, C. albicans is the major producer of these enzymes. The species distribution and the isolates profile can be different between hospitals and even in sections of the same hospital, which makes these results useful to bring a better comprehension of candidemia in the studied tertiary care hospital.

Keywords: antifungal sensitivity, Candida spp. candidemia, virulence factors.

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