Rapid Identification and Antifungal Susceptibility Pattern of Candida Isolates from Critically Ill Patients with Candiduria

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**ABSTRACT**
Urinary tract infections are among the most common infectious diseases in humans. The incidence of candidiasis is on the rise in hospitalized patients especially due to non-albicans Candida. Early specific identification of the infected yeasts provides important help in selection the appropriate choice of antifungal agents since some Candida species for example Candida krusei is inherently resistant to fluconazole. The present study was aimed to isolate, identify, and perform antifungal susceptibility testing of the yeast isolates from the urine samples of patients hospitalized in the intensive care unit. The sensitivity of HiCrome Candida agar for identification of the species of Candida was also investigated, in comparison with standard conventional method. Candida albicans was the commonest species isolated, followed by C. dubliniensis, C. krusei, C. tropicalis, and C. glabrata. The sensitivity of HiCrome Candida agar for the identification of the species of Candida ranged from 88 percent to 100 percent. Amphotericin B was found to be the most effective antifungal agent, followed by itraconazole, ketoconazole, and fluconazole. The time taken for identification of the species of the yeasts by the conventional methods ranged from 96 to 120 hours, whereas it was only 48 hours with HiCrome Candida agar. (J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents 2009;26:49-53.)

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