



Andres Felipe Gonzalez Zapata

Cooperative University of Colombia, Colombia

Title: Candida auris outbreak associated with patients with SARS-CoV-2 in the intensive care unit of a High-Complex hospital in Cucuta, Colombia

Abstract:

Introduction: During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in cases of pathogens of public health surveillance, such as Candida auris, associated with an increase in the need for patient management in intensive care units. The present study aimed to describe C.auris infections in patients with SARS-CoV-2 in a high complexity health center in the city of Cúcuta-Colombia during their hospital stay between November 2020 and April 2021, and to determine the antifungal susceptibility profile.

Materials and methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in 14 patients with SARS-CoV-2 infections with co-infection by C. auris. The diagnosis of fungal infection by C. auris was performed following the guidelines of the Microbiology Laboratory of the National Institute of Health (INS) of Colombia.

Results: A total of 14 patients with SARS-CoV-2 were confirmed with C. auris by MALDI-TOF-MS. Comorbidities were present in 64.2% with the most frequent being hypertension and type II diabetes mellitus occurring in 42.8% (6/14). 64.2% of the C auris were resistant to azole antifungal agents (Fluconazole). 50% of the patients died secondary to respiratory failure due to SARS-CoV-2 associated with candidemia.

Conclusion: the stay of patients in intensive care units has become a propitious scenario for the spread of nosocomial infections, especially in patients with comorbidities. On the other hand, antifungal resistance is of concern, worldwide resistance to azoles has been reported, which was also demonstrated in our report as well as some degree of multiazole resistance.

Biography

Andres Felipe Gonzalez Zapata is a physician who graduated from the Medical School of the Cooperative University of Colombia campus in Santa Marta, with a Master's degree in HIV from Universidad Rey de San Carlos. During my career, he has gained experience as a researcher in Tropical Medicine, especially in Tropical Neglected Diseases. Also, he developed a deep knowledge of Antimicrobial Resistance, which I have close to 2 years of experience. Currently, he belong to the Science and Pedagogy Research group with an emphasis on Antimicrobial Resistance at the Cooperative University of Colombia, and he was a resident of internal medicine at the University of Toronto.