Epidemiology of Candidaemia: A Prospective Comparison between Invasive Candidiasis in Italy and All Over the World

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In our hospital , a steady rise in the number of yeasts isolated from blood cultures was observed in ICU during 2014 as compared with 2012 (16.7% versus 40.9%, p=0.002) but always lower than the isolation rate in non ICU settings (more than 65%), with values quite similar to those of Bassetti et al. in northern Italy [7]. However, these rates were higher than those reported by Pfaller et al (55.5%), who conducted a worldwide study on the distribution and the resistance to antimycotics of *Candida* species in ICU and non-ICU wards through the Sentry Antimicrobial Surveillance Program [16]. The differences could reflect the local features, such as patient population characteristics, infection control strategies and specific antimicrobial practices [21] as compared with a large study which merged a vast quantity of data.

In conclusion, invasive fungal infections represent an increasing challenge both in ICU and in non-ICU clinical settings. The knowledge of the local epidemiology and of the susceptibility profiles are factors of paramount importance for the clinical management of these potentially lethal infectious diseases. The shift from *C. albicans* towards other species of *Candida* has been noticed all over the world in the last decades [22].

References

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