Research Article

Candida Bloodstream Infection: Changing Pattern of Occurrence and Antifungal Susceptibility over 10 Years in a Tertiary Care Saudi Hospital

Nawaf Alkharashi,[1] Sameera Aljohani,[2] Laila Layqah [iD],[3] Emad Masuadi,[4] Waleed Baharoon,[5] Hamdan AL-Jahdali [iD],[6] and Salim Baharoon [iD][7]

[1]*Department of Emergency Medicine, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
[2]*Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
[3]*Department of Research Office, King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
[4]*College of Medicine, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
[5]*College of Dentistry, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
[6]*Department of Medicine, King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
[7]*Department of Intensive Care, King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

Correspondence should be addressed to Salim Baharoon; baharoon@hotmail.com

Background. Candida has emerged as one of the most important pathogens that cause bloodstream infection (BSI).Understanding the current *Candida* BSI trends, the dominant species causing disease and the mortality associated with this infection are crucial to optimize therapeutic and prophylaxis measures. *Objectives.* To study the epidemiology and to evaluate the risk factors, prognostic factors, and mortality associated with candidemia and to compare these findings with previously published studies from Saudi Arabia. *Design.* A retrospective medical record review. *Setting.* Tertiary hospital in Riyadh. *Patients and Methods.* The analysis included all cases of *Candida* blood stream infection who are >18 years old over the period from 2013 to 2018. Continuous variables were compared using the parametric *T*-test while categorical variables were compared using the Chi-squared test. *Main Outcome Measure.* Incidence, resistance, and hospital outcomes in *Candida* blood stream infection. *Sample Size.* 324 patients. *Results.* Three hundred and twenty-four episodes of *Candida* blood stream infections were identified. Median age of patients was 49.7 SD ± 28.1 years, and 53% of patients were males. More than half of the patients had an underlying disease involving the abdomen or laparotomy, 78% had an indwelling intravenous catheter, and 62% had suffered a bacterial infection within 2 weeks prior to candidemia. *Candida albicans* represents 33% of all isolates with decreasing trend overtime. There was an increase in the number of non*albicans Candida* overtime with *Candida tropicalis* in the lead (20%). Use of broad spectrum antibiotics (82%), prior ICU admission (60%) and use of central venous catheters (58%) were the most prevalent predisposing factors of candidemia. Azole resistance was variable overtime. Resistance to caspofungin remained very low (1.9%). Fourteen days crude mortality was 37% for ICU patients and 26.7% in non-ICU patients, while hospital crude mortality was 64.4% and 46.7%, respectively. *Conclusion.* There is an increasing trend of non*albicans Candida* blood stream infection. Fluconazole resistance remained low to *C. albicans*. Most isolates remain susceptible to caspofungin, voriconazole, and amphotericin B. *Candida* bloodstream infection is associated with high 14-day hospital mortality.

1. Introduction

Over the last two decades, *Candida* has emerged as one of the most important pathogens causing nosocomial bloodstream infection in both adults and children worldwide [1–6]. *Candida* is part of our normal flora, and more than 200 species have been described, but only 10% are known to cause human infections [7]. In hospitalized patients and especially in the critically ill patients, *Candida* is between the fourth and sixth most

common isolated pathogen in bloodstream infections [8–12].

As a single species, *C. albicans* accounts for close to 50% of overall invasive *Candida* infection. However, there has been a proportionate increase in the isolation of non*albicans* species of *Candida* [4, 13–18].

Incidence of *Candida*-invasive blood infection and *Candida* species isolated varies according to patient population and geographical locations. While some surveillance has described an increase in the incidence of candidemia, others have showed either a stable or decreasing trends [19–24].

In Saudi Arabia, candidemia incidence is not precisely known. Earlier studies revealed a low incidence in general ranging between 0.2 and 0.76 cases/1000 hospital discharges, [25–28] while more recent studies revealed a higher incidence with a median rate of 1.65 per 1,000 hospital discharges per year with a significant trend towards higher rates over time [29, 30]. *Candida* accounts for 2.8% of all positive blood cultures [31].

The reported mortality secondary to candidemia ranges from 30 to 60% with up to 30 days increase in the length of hospital stay for survivors [11, 12, 16, 32, 33].

Risk factors of bloodstream infections with *Candida* species have been extensively studied and include malignancies, neutropenia, prolonged ICU (intensive care unit) stays, *Candida* colonization, severe illness, diabetes, renal failure, hemodialysis, receipt of prolonged courses of broad-spectrum antibiotics, central venous catheterization, parenteral hyperalimentation, immunosuppressive drugs, and transplantation [34–38].

The current project aims to study the epidemiology and to evaluate the risk factors, prognostic factors, and mortality associated with candidemia and to compare these findings with previously published studies from Saudi Arabia.

2. Method

This is a retrospective analysis of all cases of *Candida* blood stream infection over the period from 2008 to 2015 from a tertiary care hospital in Riyadh Saudi Arabia. National Guard (NGHA) hospital in Riyadh is multiple specialty hospital with a total bed capacity of more than 1200 beds.

Candida blood stream infection is defined as at least 1 blood culture positive for *Candida* species for a patient who developed signs and symptoms of BSI >48 h after hospital admission. Only the first episode of candidemia was included.

Demographic and clinical data of age, gender, primary illness, comorbidities, and risk factors such as duration of antibiotic therapy, intravenous catheters, endotracheal intubation, and mechanical ventilation at the time when blood culture was positive were all collected.

When data were available, we calculated the *Candida* score for patients. The score consists of the following: multifocal *Candida* colonization (1 point), surgery on ICU admission (1 point), severe sepsis (2 points), and TPN (1 point). A cutoff of more than or equal to three was highly predictive of fungal infection. The score is created based on

the four predictors of invasive fungal infection in the Estudio de Prevalencia de CANdidiasis project [39]. There was a significant linear association between higher values and invasive fungal infection especially in ICU patients, and a higher score could be used to risk stratify patients for early antifungal treatment [40]. *Candida* colonization data were frequently missing especially in non-ICU patients.

Candida identification was carried out via VITEK® 2 (bioMérieux, Inc. Hazelwood, MO, USA) healthcare system and bioMérieux API 20C AUX, a system for the identification of the most frequently encountered yeasts. *Candida* susceptibility was primarily performed with bioMérieux VITEK® 2 Fungal Susceptibility (AST-Y07). Thermo Scientific™ Sensititre™ YeastOne™ YO10 AST antifungal testing (colorimetric microplate-based assay) was occasionally used. Both methods have shown good agreement with the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) broth microdilution reference method (BMD) [39–46].

The permission of the Ethics Committee at King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC) was obtained.

3. Statistical Analysis

Standard descriptive statistics were used. Categorical data were reported as frequencies and percentages, while continuous variables were reported as mean ± standard deviation. Continuous variables were compared using the parametric *T*-test while categorical variables were compared using the Chi-squared test. Multivariate logistic regression was used to the assess *Candida* risk factors. Tests were performed two-tailed and considered significant when *p* value <0.05. All statistical tests were performed using the statistical package IBM SPSS for Windows (version 20.0: SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA).

4. Results

Over the study period, a total of 324 patients with candidemia were identified. Male-to-female ratio was 1.14 with a mean age of 49.7 SD ± 28.1. *Candida albicans* was the leading cause of candidemia across all years accounting for 33%. Non*albicans* strains as a group were more common representing 67% of all isolates (Table 1).

More than two thirds of candidemia episodes (67.6%) occurred in the intensive care units (ICUs) followed by medical wards (15%). There were more candidemia episodes from cardiac wards (6.5%) including CCU and medical cardiac ICU compared with surgical (5.6%) and hematology (5.2%) wards.

In the first two years of the study, there was an increase in candidemia of both non*albicans* and *C. albicans* groups. While the rate of candidemia due to *C. albicans* was stable between 2010 and 2013 and decreasing thereafter, non*albicans* candidemia continues to increase (Figure 1(a)). *Candida tropicalis* followed by *Candida glabrata* and *Candida parapsilosis* were the most commonly isolated in the non*albicans* group. While number of isolates due to *C. tropicalis* was decreasing, both *C. glabrata* and *C. krusei* were on the rise (Figure 1(b)). Non*albicans* group were more

TABLE 1: Patients general characteristics.

Item	Identified variables	N (%)
Gender	Male	173 (53.4)
	Female	151 (46.6)
Age	Mean ± SD	49.7 ± 28.1
	Intensive care unit (ICU)	219 (67.6)
Place of isolation	Medical	49 (15)
	Others*	56 (17.3)
	Nonintensive care unit	105 (32.4)
	Prior ICU admission	195 (60.2)
	Neutropenia	19 (5.9)
	Use of broad-spectrum antibiotic	264 (81.5)
	Presence of vascular device	188 (58)
	Internal jugular	98 (30.2)
Risk factors	Subclavian	34 (10.5)
	Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC)	33 (10.2)
	Femoral	64 (19.8)
	Parenteral nutrition	60 (18.5)
	Intra-abdominal infection	15 (4.6)
	Others (medications)	44 (13.6)
	C. albicans	108 (33.3)
	Non*albicans*	216 (66.7)
	C. tropicalis	72 (22.2)
Candida species	*C. glabrata*	60 (18.5)
	C. parapsilosis	52 (16)
	C. krusei	17 (5.2)
	Others	15 (4.6)
	Amphotericin B	315 (97.2)
Drug susceptibility profile (susceptible)	Caspofungin	314 (96.9)
	Fluconazole	214 (66)
	Voriconazole	281 (86.7)
14 days outcome	Alive	215 (66.4)
	Dead	109 (33.6)
Hospital outcome	Alive	134 (41.4)
	Dead	190 (58.6)

*= surgical 5.6%, cardiac 6.5%, and hematology 5.2%.
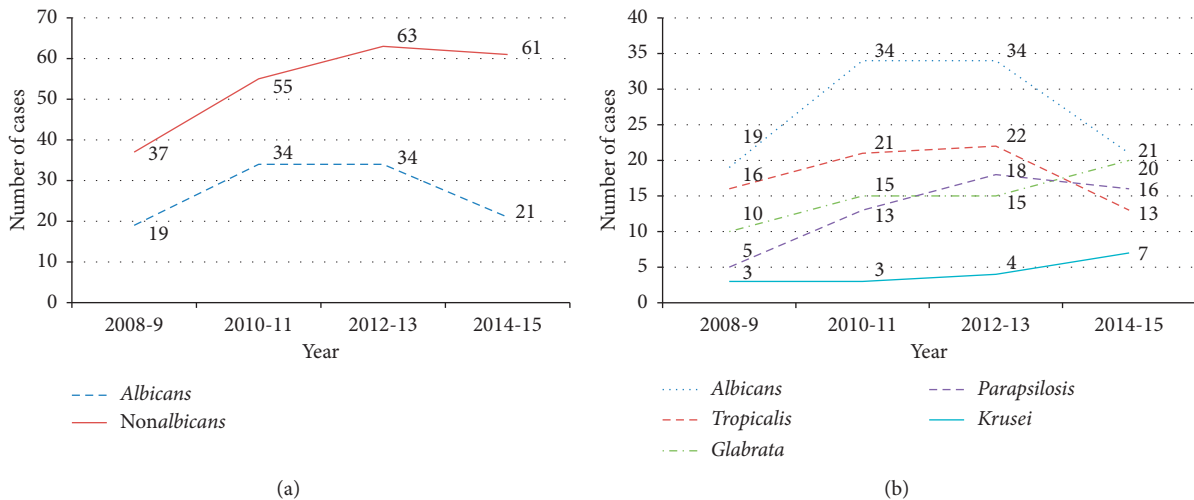

(a)

(b)

FIGURE 1: Trends of candidemia over time. (a) *Albicans* vs non*albicans*. (b) *Candida* spp.

frequently isolated in ICU patients (63.5% vs. 37.3%, *p* 0.078) crude mortality within the first two weeks after candidemia was 64% and is more observed among patients in ICU when the diagnosis is made (37% vs. 27% *p* 0.016) (Table 2). Overall hospital mortality was 59%. Crude mortality remained high for both non*albicans* and *C. albicans* groups with a slightly lower rate for former overtime (Figure 2).

Patients where candidemia was diagnosed in ICU were significantly less likely to leave hospital alive (*p* 0.002)

TABLE 2: Patients outcome.

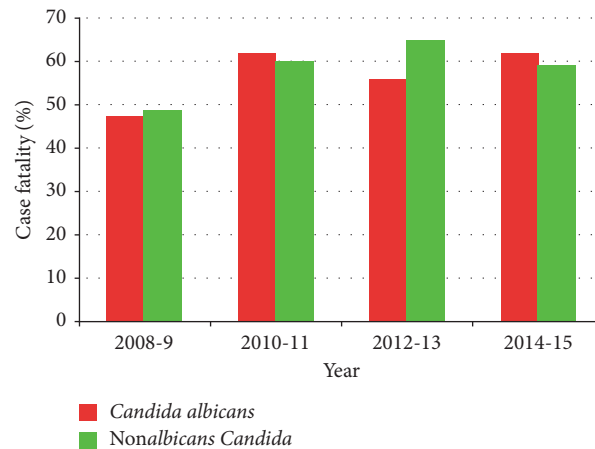| Identified variables	Variable	14 days postisolation outcome			Hospital outcome		
		Dead N (%)	Alive N (%)	p value	Dead N (%)	Alive N (%)	p value
Age	≤18	15 (23.4)	49 (76.6)	0.054	26 (40.6)	38 (59.4)	0.001
	>18	94 (36.2)	166 (63.8)		164 (63.1)	96 (36.9)	
Mean age ± SD		54.9 ± 26	47 ± 28.82	0.013	55.7 ± 26.2	41.2 ± 28.7	<0.001
Gender	Male	60 (34.7)	113 (65.5)	0.671	102 (59)	71 (41)	0.901
	Female	49 (32.5)	102 (67.5)		88 (58.3)	63 (41.7)	
Primary diagnosis	Abdominal pathology	13 (28.3)	33 (71.7)	0.404	29 (63)	17 (37)	0.513
		96 (34.5)	182 (65.5)		161 (57.9)	117 (42.1)	
	Malignancy	23 (37.1)	39 (62.9)	0.522	39 (62.9)	23 (37.1)	0.449
		86 (32.8)	176 (67.2)		151 (57.9)	111 (42.4)	
	Trauma/surgery	4 (13.8)	25 (86.2)	0.018	11 (37.9)	18 (62.1)	0.018
		105 (35.6)	190 (64.4)		179 (60.7)	116 (39.3)	
	Sepsis/infection	40 (40.8)	58 (59.2)	0.072	60 (61.2)	38 (38.8)	0.534
		69 (30.5)	157 (69.5)		130 (57.5)	96 (42.5)	
	Kidney disease	12 (32.4)	25 (67.6)	0.869	22 (59.5)	15 (40.5)	0.915
		97 (33.8)	190 (66.2)		168 (58.5)	119 (41.5)	
	Burn	4 (30.8)	9 (69.2)	0.823	7 (53.8)	6 (46.2)	0.720
		105 (33.8)	206 (66.2)		183 (58.8)	128 (41.2)	
	Others	36 (32.1)	76 (67.9)	0.678	67 (59.8)	45 (40.2)	0.754
		73 (34.4)	139 (65.6)		123 (58)	89 (42)	
Comorbidities	Diabetes mellitus	59 (35.8)	106 (64.2)	0.412	113 (68.5)	52 (31.5)	<0.001
		50 (31.4)	109 (68.6)		77 (48.4)	82 (51.6)	
	Renal disease	48 (44.9)	59 (55.1)	0.003	79 (73.8)	28 (26.2)	<0.001
		61 (28.1)	156 (71.9)		111 (51.2)	106 (48.8)	
	Cardiac disease	24 (32)	51 (68.1)	0.731	55 (73.3)	20 (26.7)	0.003
		85 (34.1)	164 (65.9)		135 (54.2)	114 (45.8)	
	Respiratory disease	16 (37.2)	27 (62.8)	0.595	27 (62.8)	16 (37.2)	0.553
		93 (33.1)	188 (66.9)		163 (58)	118 (42)	
	Liver disease	16 (53.3)	14 (46.7)	0.017	24 (80)	6 (20)	0.013
		93 (31.6)	201 (68.4)		166 (56.5)	128 (43.5)	
	Malignancy	20 (35.1)	37 (64.9)	0.799	32 (56.1)	25 (43.9)	0.673
		89 (33.3)	178 (66.7)		158 (59.2)	109 (40.8)	
	Recent steroid use	62 (39.2)	96 (60.8)	0.037	106 (67.1)	52 (32.9)	0.003
		47 (28.3)	119 (71.7)		84 (50.6)	82 (49.4)	
	Others	5 (33.3)	10 (66.7)	0.979	179 (57.9)	4 (26.7)	0.237
		104 (33.7)	205 (66.3		11 (73.3)	130 (42.1)	
Site at isolation	ICU	81 (37)	138 (63)	0.066	141 (64.4)	78 (35.6)	0.002
	Non-ICU	28 (26.7)	77 (73.3)		49 (46.7)	56 (53.3)	
Device related	Yes	76 (40.4)	112 (59.6)	0.002	124 (66)	64 (43)	0.002
	No	33 (24.3)	103 (75.7)		66 (48.5)	70 (51.5)	
Prior ICU admission	Yes	68 (34.9)	127 (65.1)	0.565	121 (62.1)	74 (37.9)	0.126
	No	41 (31.8)	88 (68.2)		69 (53.5)	60 (46.5)	
Use of broad-spectrum antibiotics	Yes	95 (36)	169 (64)	0.061	168 (88.4)	96 (71.6)	<0.001
	No	14 (23.3)	46 (76.7)				
Candida species	C. albicans	40 (37)	68 (63)		46 (42.6)	62 (57.4)	
	Nonalbicans						
	(i) C. tropicalis	69 (31.9)	147 (68)		88 (40.7)	128 (59.3)	
	(ii) C. glabrata	21 (29.2)	51 (70.8)	0.322	42 (58.3)	30 (41.7)	0.666
	(iii) C. parapsilosis	19 (31.7)	41 (68.3)		40 (66.7)	20 (33.3)	
	(iv) C. krusei	15 (28.8)	37 (71.2)		28 (53.8)	24 (46.2)	
		9 (52.9)	8 (47.1)		11 (64.7)	6 (35.3)	
Risk factors	Yes	105 (33.5)	208 (66.5)	0.846	186 (58.4)	127 (40.6)	0.127
	No	4 (36.4)	7 (63.6)		4 (36.4)	7 (63.6)	
Prior colonization	Yes	35 (35)	65 (65)	0.730	62 (62)	38 (38)	0.412
	No	74 (33)	150 (67)		128 (57.1)	96 (42.9)	
Treatment duration	≤48 h	18 (69.2)	8 (30.8)	0.001	21 (80.8)	5 (19.2)	0.017
	>48 h	83 (29.5)	198 (70.5)		159 (56.6)	122 (43.4)	
Azole therapy	Yes	15 (20)	60 (80)	0.004	33 (44)	42 (56)	0.003
	No	94 (37.8)	155 (62.2)		157 (63.1)	92 (36.9)	

FIGURE 2: Hospital case fatality.

(Table 2) Older age, candidemia in the patients with chronic liver disease, and treatment with azole therapy were all associated with worst outcome, while invasive *Candida* infection in trauma/surgery patients and those that are device-related have a better outcome (Table 2).

In multivariate analysis, risk factors for candidemia includes use of broad-spectrum antibiotics (81.5%) followed by ICU admission (60.2%) and use of central venous catheters (58%) (Table 3). *Candida* score was less or equal to 2 in 79% of patient with candidemia.

The *Candida albicans* group remained very susceptible to amphotericin B and echinocandin (caspofungin was the only echinocandin available in our hospital during the study period) (Table 4). Susceptibility to fluconazole remained high (77%). Among non*albicans* group susceptibility to fluconazole and voriconazole were 60% and 89%, respectively (Table 4). Although susceptibility to azoles (fluconazole and voriconazole) among the *C. albicans* group was trending lower during the study period, there was a significant increase in susceptibility over time in recent years in both *C. albicans* and non*albicans* groups (Figures 3(a) and 3(b)).

5. Discussion

Candida infection is a leading cause of invasive fungal infection worldwide [1, 2, 4, 13, 30]. Epidemiological studies have suggested that the annual incidence of candidemia in some countries might have stabilized or even decreased; however, there is a significant geographical variation [2, 4, 14, 18, 22–25, 29, 30].

Local epidemiological surveillance studies are important to guide empirical and therapeutic antifungal therapy. There is no Saudi national data on incidence and prevalence of invasive fungal infection. However, some centers have reported low and decreasing trends, while others showed an increasing rate [22–25, 30]. *Candida albicans*-invasive infection remains the most frequently isolated single species in our study albeit trending down frequency. Similar to other studies, BSI due to non*albicans Candida* as a group is higher with increasing frequency [29, 47, 48]. *Candida tropicalis* is

the most frequently isolated among the non*albicans* group. In Saudi Arabia, *Candida tropicalis* has been the main species isolated among NAC (non*albicans Candida*) in both adult and pediatric population in most of the studies reported followed by *Candida glabrata* [6, 25–27, 30]. Risk factors for the emergence of non*albicans Candida* include increasing use of an antifungal regimen specially fluconazole, use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, and the increasing number of immunocompromised patients [37, 49, 50]. The decreasing trends of *Candida tropicalis* over time in our cohort is substituted by increasing frequency of *C. glabrata* and *C. Krusei.* This change over time may reflect patient variation and antimicrobial regimens that include more echinocandin use [51].

The European SENTRY investigators' reported *C. parapsilosis* as the most frequently encountered *Candida* spp, while *C. glabrata* as the most commonly isolated NAC in US [2]. Other *Candida* species were more predominant in other countries. Such variability likely represents differences in populations studied and risk factors encountered [4, 32, 52].

Risk factors for invasive *Candida* across many studies from Saudi are consistent and similar to what is reported internationally. Use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, admission to ICU, and central vascular access were the main reported [6, 29, 30, 53].

Extensive use of broad-spectrum antimicrobial remains a very big challenge in Saudi Arabia. Ministry of health has recently launched a major campaign to combat the crisis of inappropriate use of antimicrobial in the Kingdom. More than two-third of our patients were ICU patients or with previous visit to ICU which is a major place for antimicrobial use. Vascular devices were in place in 58% of patients with candidemia. Those two factors are amenable to improvement through effective stewardship programs.

Most of the *Candida* spp. remains sensitive to polyene and echinocandins worldwide [11, 30, 54]. *Candida albicans* remains mostly sensitive to azoles. Resistance to fluconazole ranges between 0.3 and 2 percent [2, 53, 54]. However, *Candida albicans* with reduced susceptibility to fluconazole have been observed in many centers including Saudi Arabia [31, 55]. In our series, only 68% of *Candida albicans* isolates

TABLE 3: A multivariate regression analysis of *Candida* risk factors.

Variable	Infection outcome 95% CI for OR				Hospital outcome 95% CI for OR			
	Lower	Upper	*p* value	OR	Lower	Upper	*p* value	OR
Prior ICU admission (yes/no)	0.531	1.478	0.642	0.886	0.71	1.89	0.559	1.16
Neutropenia (yes/no)	0.218	1.936	0.439	0.65	0.29	2.01	0.585	0.76
Use of broad-spectrum antibiotic (yes/no)	0.948	3.609	0.071	1.849	1.74	5.77	<0.001	3.17
CV (yes/no)	1.269	3.631	0.004	2.146	1.22	3.26	0.006	1.99
TPN (yes/no)	0.286	1.085	0.085	0.557	0.56	1.86	0.944	1.02
Chemotherapy (yes/no)	0.267	2.683	0.778	0.847	0.33	2.61	0.887	0.93
Intra-abdominal infection (yes/no)	0.426	3.865	0.658	1.283	0.37	3.43	0.834	1.13
Chronic use of steroid (yes/no)	0.36	4.03	0.762	1.205	0.16	1.68	0.267	0.51
Immune-modulating drugs (yes/no)	0.285	5.194	0.792	1.216	0.16	2.55	0.527	0.64

TABLE 4: *Candida* species susceptibility profile.

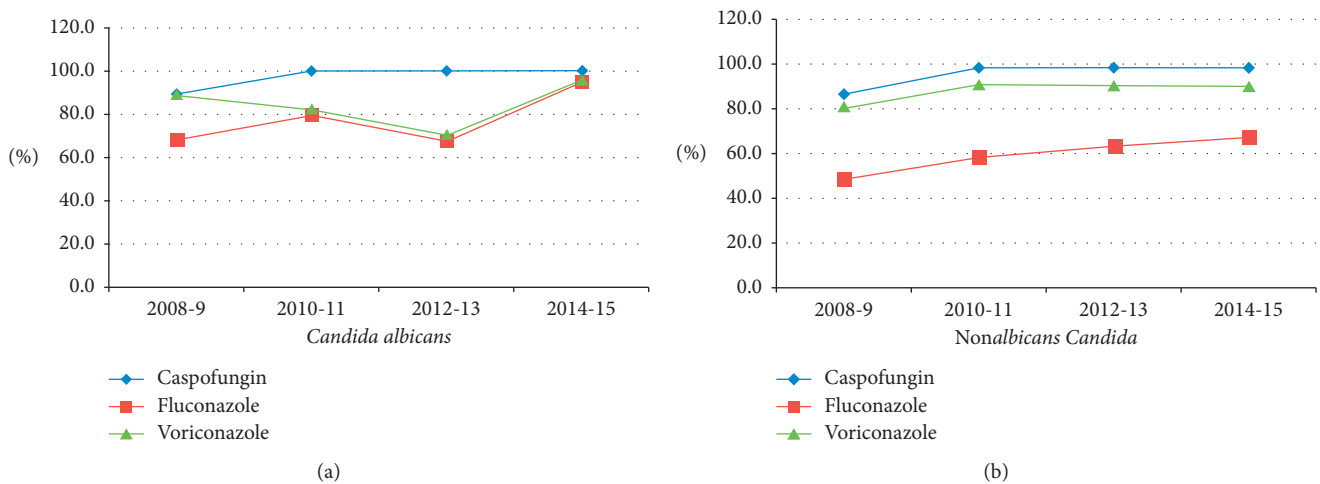| *Candida* spp	Amphotericin B N (%)	Caspofungin N (%)	Fluconazole N (%)	Voriconazole N (%)
C. albicans	106 (98.1)	106 (98.1)	83 (76.9)	89 (82.4)
C. tropicalis	72 (100)	69 (95.8)	52 (72.2)	63 (87.5)
C. glabrata	60 (100)	58 (96.7)	29 (48.3)	47 (78.3)
C. parapsilosis	52 (100)	52 (100)	32 (61.5)	51 (98)
C. krusei	13 (76.5)	16 (94)	4 (23.5)	16 (94)
Others	12 (80)	13 (86.7)	14 (93.3)	15 (100)

(a)

(b)

FIGURE 3: Susceptibility trend over time.

were reported sensitive to fluconazole at the start of the study, but much higher susceptibility was observed at the end of the study (95%). Similar to other studies, resistance to fluconazole was overall predictive of resistance to voriconazole in our series [54, 56]. *Candida Krusei* susceptibility to amphotericin B was lower than what is reported internationally but consistent with what was previously reported from Saudi Arabia (76%) [11, 29, 56].

Invasive *Candida* infection is associated with significant mortality especially in ICU and among older patients [1, 4, 11, 16, 30, 32, 33, 57, 58]. Both hospital and 14-day mortality in our cohort was high and was significantly higher among patients with ICU candidemia (37% vs. 26% *p* 0.066) and in those with candidemia related to vascular device. Patients with chronic liver disease and chronic and or acute renal failure requiring renal supportive therapy have significantly worse outcomes (*p* 0.017 and 0.003) Treatment for less than 48 hours and with azole therapy were also associated with worse outcome.

This study still represents single center experience which may vary according to hospital profile of admission and regional patient's characteristics. There is a need for more comprehensive national data that should not be limited to one health care provider or geographical areas.

In conclusion, the non*albicans Candida* group was the major cause of invasive candidemia and was trending higher overtime while *Candida albicans* were decreasing. *Candida glabrata* is emerging as the most frequent overtime. Most of the *Candida* spp. remained highly susceptible to all lines of therapy. Mortality remained high for all cases with invasive candidemia and especially among critically ill patients.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Additional Points

This study still represents single-center experience which may vary according to the hospital profile of admission and regional patient's characteristics.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

References

[1] H. Wisplinghoff, T. Bischoff, S. M. Tallent, H. Seifert, R. P. Wenzel, and M. B. Edmond, "Nosocomial bloodstream infections in US hospitals: analysis of 24,179 cases from a prospective nationwide surveillance study," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 39, no. 3, pp. 309–317, 2004.

[2] M. A. Pfaller, D. J. Diekema, R. N. Jones et al., "International surveillance of bloodstream infections due to Candida species: frequency of occurrence and in vitro susceptibilities to fluconazole, ravuconazole, and voriconazole of isolates collected from 1997 through 1999 in the SENTRY antimicrobial surveillance program," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 39, no. 9, pp. 3254–3259, 2001.

[3] O. Marchetti, J. Bille, U. Fluckiger et al., "Epidemiology of candidemia in Swiss tertiary care hospitals: secular trends, 1991–2000," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 38, no. 3, pp. 311–320, 2004.

[4] A. M. Tortorano, J. Peman, H. Bernhardt et al., "Epidemiology of candidaemia in Europe: results of 28-month European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM) hospital-based surveillance study," *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 317–322, 2004.

[5] T. E. Zaoutis, J. Argon, J. Chu, J. A. Berlin, T. J. Walsh, and C. Feudtner, "The epidemiology and attributable outcomes of candidemia in adults and children hospitalized in the United States: a propensity analysis," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 41, no. 9, pp. 1232–1239, 2005.

[6] Z. Almooosa, G. Y. Ahmed, A. Omran et al., "Invasive candidiasis in pediatric patients at King Fahad Medical City in Central Saudi Arabia. A 5-year retrospective study," *Saudi Medical Journal*, vol. 38, no. 11, pp. 1118–1124, 2017.

[7] R. Cohen, F. J. Roth, E. Delgado, D. G. Ahearn, and M. H. Kalser, "Fungal flora of the normal human small and large intestine," *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 280, no. 12, pp. 638–641, 1969.

[8] E. Bouza and P. Muñoz, "Epidemiology of candidemia in intensive care units," *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. S87–S91, 2008.

[9] P. Eggimann, J. Garbino, and D. Pittet, "Epidemiology of Candida species infections in critically ill non-immunosuppressed patients," *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, vol. 3, no. 11, pp. 685–702, 2003.

[10] L. Ostrosky-Zeichner and P. G. Pappas, "Invasive candidiasis in the intensive care unit," *Critical Care Medicine*, vol. 34, no. 3, pp. 857–863, 2006.

[11] H. M. Al-Dorzi, H. Sakkijha, R. Khan et al., "Invasive candidiasis in critically ill patients: a prospective cohort study in two tertiary care centers," *Journal of Intensive Care Medicine*, 2018.

[12] S. I. Blot, K. H. Vandewoude, E. A. Hoste, and F. A. Colardyn, "Effects of nosocomial candidemia on outcomes of critically ill patients," *The American Journal of Medicine*, vol. 113, no. 6, pp. 480–485, 2002.

[13] M. Bassetti, E. Righi, A. Costa et al., "Epidemiological trends in nosocomial candidemia in intensive care," *BMC Infectious Diseases*, vol. 6, no. 1, p. 21, 2006.

[14] J. Pemán, E. Cantón, and M. Gobernado, "Epidemiology and antifungal susceptibility of Candida species isolated from blood: results of a 2-year multicentre study in Spain," *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 23–30, 2005.

[15] A. Malani, J. Hmoud, L. Chiu, P. L. Carver, A. Bielaczyc, and C. A. Kauffman, "Candida glabrata fungemia: experience in a tertiary care center," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 41, no. 7, pp. 975–981, 2005.

[16] B. Almirante, D. Rodríguez, M. Cuenca-Estrella et al., "Epidemiology, risk factors, and prognosis of Candida parapsilosis bloodstream infections: case-control population-based surveillance study of patients in Barcelona, Spain, from 2002 to 2003," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 44, no. 5, pp. 1681–1685, 2006.

[17] D. Trofa, A. Gácser, and J. D. Nosanchuk, "Candida parapsilosis, an emerging fungal pathogen," *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*, vol. 21, no. 4, pp. 606–625, 2008.

[18] T. Nakamura and H. Takahashi, "Epidemiological study of Candida infections in blood: susceptibilities of Candida spp. to antifungal agents, and clinical features associated with the candidemia," *Journal of Infection and Chemotherapy*, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 132–138, 2006.

[19] D. L. Horn, D. Neofytos, E. J. Anaissie et al., "Epidemiology and outcomes of candidemia in 2019 patients: data from the prospective antifungal therapy alliance registry," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 48, no. 12, pp. 1695–1703, 2009.

[20] M. Nucci, F. Queiroz-Telles, T. Alvarado-Matute et al., "Epidemiology of candidemia in Latin America: a laboratory-based survey," *PLoS One*, vol. 8, no. 3, Article ID e59373, 2013.

[21] H. Wang, Y. C. Xu, and P. R. Hsueh, "Epidemiology of candidemia and antifungal susceptibility in invasive Candida species in the Asia-Pacific region," *Future Microbiology*, vol. 11, no. 11, pp. 1461–1477, 2016.

[22] J. Morgan, "Global trends in candidemia: review of reports from 1995–2005," *Current Infectious Disease Reports*, vol. 7, no. 6, pp. 429–439, 2005.

[23] M. S. Rangel-Frausto, T. Wiblin, H. M. Blumberg et al., "National epidemiology of mycoses survey (NEMIS): variations in rates of bloodstream infections due to Candida species in seven surgical intensive care units and six neonatal intensive care units," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 29, no. 2, pp. 253–258, 1999.

[24] S. Y. Ruan and P. R. Hsueh, "Invasive candidiasis: an overview from Taiwan," *Journal of the Formosan Medical Association*, vol. 108, no. 6, pp. 443–451, 2009.

[25] J. A. Al-Tawfiq, "Distribution and epidemiology of Candida species causing fungemia at a Saudi Arabian hospital, 1996–2004," *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 239–244, 2007.

[26] H. A. Bukharie, "Nosocomial candidemia in a tertiary care hospital in Saudi Arabia," *Mycopathologia*, vol. 153, no. 4, pp. 195–198, 2002.

[27] D. H. Akbar and A. T. Tahawi, "Candidemia at a University Hospital: epidemiology, risk factors and predictors of mortality," *Annals of Saudi Medicine*, vol. 21, no. 3-4, pp. 178–182, 2001.

[28] S. S. Al-Hedaithy, "The yeast species causing fungemia at a university hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during a 10-year period," *Mycoses*, vol. 46, no. 8, pp. 293–298, 2003.

[29] A. H. O. Al Thaqafi, F. M. Farahat, M. I. Al Harbi, A. F. W. Al Amri, and J. R. Perfect, "Predictors and outcomes of Candida bloodstream infection: eight-year surveillance, western Saudi Arabia," *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, vol. 21, pp. 5–9, 2014.

[30] A. S. Omrani, E. A. Makkawy, K. Baig et al., "Ten-year review of invasive Candida infections in a tertiary care center in Saudi Arabia," *Saudi Medical Journal*, vol. 35, no. 8, pp. 821–826, 2014.

[31] A. O. Osoba, A. W. Al-Mowallad, D. E. McAlear, and B. A. Hussein, "Candidemia and the susceptibility pattern of Candida isolates in blood," *Saudi Medical Journal*, vol. 24, no. 10, pp. 1060–1063, 2003.

[32] H. L. Nace, D. Horn, and D. Neofytos, "Epidemiology and outcome of multiple-species candidemia at a tertiary care center between 2004 and 2007," *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, vol. 64, no. 3, pp. 289–294, 2009.

[33] C. C. Kibbler, S. Seaton, R. A. Barnes et al., "Management and outcome of bloodstream infections due to Candida species in England and Wales," *Journal of Hospital Infection*, vol. 54, no. 1, pp. 18–24, 2003.

[34] M. Nucci and A. Colombo, "Risk factors for breakthrough candidemia," *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 209–211, 2002.

[35] F. C. Odds, M. F. Hanson, A. D. Davidson et al., "One year prospective survey of Candida bloodstream infections in Scotland," *Journal of Medical Microbiology*, vol. 56, no. 8, pp. 1066–1075, 2007.

[36] O. Uzun, S. Ascioglu, E. J. Anaissie, and J. H. Rex, "Risk factors and predictors of outcome in patients with cancer and breakthrough candidemia," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 32, no. 12, pp. 1713–1717, 2001.

[37] J. K. Chow, Y. Golan, R. Ruthazer et al., "Risk factors for albicans and non-albicans candidemia in the intensive care unit," *Critical Care Medicine*, vol. 36, no. 7, pp. 1993–1998, 2008.

[38] Y. R. Cheng, L. C. Lin, T. G. Young, C. E. Liu, C. H. Chen, and R. W. Tsay, "Risk factors for candidemia-related mortality at a medical center in central Taiwan," *Journal of Microbiology, Immunology, and Infection*, vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 155–161, 2006.

[39] M. Melhem, A. Bertoletti, H. Lucca, R. Silva, F. Meneghin, and M. Szeszs, "Use of the VITEK 2 system to identify and test the antifungal susceptibility of clinically relevant yeast species," *Brazilian Journal of Microbiology*, vol. 44, no. 4, pp. 1257–1266, 2013.

[40] M. A. Pfaller, D. J. Diekema, G. W. Procop, and M. G. Rinaldi, "Multicenter comparison of the VITEK 2 yeast susceptibility test with the CLSI broth microdilution reference method for testing fluconazole against Candida spp," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 45, no. 3, pp. 796–802, 2007.

[41] O. Meurman, A. Koskensalo, and K. Rantakokko-Jalava, "Evaluation of Vitek 2 for identification of yeasts in the clinical laboratory," *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, vol. 12, no. 6, pp. 591–593, 2006.

[42] J. H. Rex, B. D. Alexander, D. Andes et al., *Reference Method for Broth Dilution Antifungal Susceptibility Testing of Yeasts, Approved Standard—Third Edition, CLSI Document M27-A3*, Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute, Wayne, PA, USA, 2008.

[43] K. G. Davey, A. Szekely, E. M. Johnson, and D. W. Warnock, "Comparison of a new commercial colorimetric microdilution method with a standard method for in-vitro susceptibility testing of Candida spp. and Cryptococcus neoformans," *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*, vol. 42, no. 4, pp. 439–444, 1998.

[44] A. Espinel-Ingroff, M. Pfaller, S. A. Messer et al., "Multicenter comparison of the sensititre YeastOne Colorimetric Antifungal Panel with the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory standards M27-A reference method for testing clinical isolates of common and emerging Candida spp., Cryptococcus spp., and other yeasts and yeast-like organisms," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 591–595, 1999.

[45] M. A. Pfaller, A. Espinel-Ingroff, and R. N. Jones, "Clinical evaluation of the Sensititre YeastOne colorimetric antifungal plate for antifungal susceptibility testing of the new triazoles voriconazole, posaconazole, and ravuconazole," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 42, no. 10, pp. 4577–4580, 2004.

[46] A. Espinel-Ingroff, M. Pfaller, S. A. Messer, C. C. Knapp, N. Holliday, and S. B. Killian, "Multicenter comparison of the Sensititre YeastOne colorimetric antifungal panel with the NCCLS M27-A2 reference method for testing new antifungal agents against clinical isolates of Candida spp," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 718–721, 2004.

[47] S. C. Deorukhkar, S. Saini, and S. Mathew, "Non-albicans candida infection: an emerging threat," *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases*, vol. 2014, Article ID 615958, 7 pages, 2014.

[48] A. L. Colombo, T. Guimarães, T. Sukienik et al., "Prognostic factors and historical trends in the epidemiology of candidemia in critically ill patients: an analysis of five multicenter studies sequentially conducted over a 9-year period," *Intensive Care Medicine*, vol. 40, no. 10, pp. 1489–1498, 2014.

[49] R. J. Kothavade, M. M. Kura, A. G. Valand, and M. H. Panthaki, "*Candida tropicalis*: its prevalence, pathogenicity and increasing resistance to fluconazole," *Journal of Medical Microbiology*, vol. 59, no. 8, pp. 873–880, 2010.

[50] B. J. Kullberg and M. C. Arendrup, "Invasive candidiasis," *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 373, no. 15, pp. 1445–1456, 2015.

[51] M. A. Pfaller, M. Castanheira, S. R. Lockhart, A. M. Ahlquist, S. A. Messer, and R. N. Jones, "Frequency of decreased susceptibility and resistance to echinocandins among fluconazole-resistant bloodstream isolates of Candida glabrata," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 50, no. 4, pp. 1199–1203, 2012.

[52] V. Krčméry Jr. and G. Kovačičová, "Longitudinal 10-year prospective survey of fungaemia in Slovak Republic: trends in etiology in 310 episodes. Slovak Fungaemia study group," *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*, vol. 36, no. 1, pp. 7–11, 2000.

[53] M. A. Pfaller, G. J. Moet, S. A. Messer, R. N. Jones, and M. Castanheira, "CandidaBloodstream infections: comparison of species distributions and antifungal resistance patterns

in community-onset and nosocomial isolates in the SENTRY antimicrobial surveillance program, 2008-2009," *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, vol. 55, no. 2, pp. 561–566, 2011.

[54] G. M. Lyon, S. Karatela, S. Sunay, and Y. Adiri, "Antifungal susceptibility testing of Candida isolates from the Candida surveillance study," *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, vol. 48, no. 4, pp. 1270–1275, 2010.

[55] F. Eksi, E. D. Gayyurhan, and I. Balci, "In vitro susceptibility of Candida species to four antifungal agents assessed by the reference broth microdilution method," *The Scientific World Journal*, vol. 2013, Article ID 236903, 6 pages, 2013.

[56] D. A. Oxman, J. K. Chow, G. Frendl et al., "Candidaemia associated with decreased in vitro fluconazole susceptibility: is Candida speciation predictive of the susceptibility pattern?," *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*, vol. 65, no. 7, pp. 1460–1465, 2010.

[57] O. Gudlaugsson, S. Gillespie, K. Lee et al., "Attributable mortality of nosocomial candidemia, revisited," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 37, no. 9, pp. 1172–1177, 2003.

[58] D. R. Andes, N. Safdar, J. W. Baddley et al., "Impact of treatment strategy on outcomes in patients with candidemia and other forms of invasive candidiasis: a patient-level quantitative review of randomized trials," *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 54, no. 8, pp. 1110–1122, 2012.