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Abstract (poster session)

**Agreement of MIC test strips®, Etest® and the EUCAST broth microdilution method for *Candida* spp. antifungal susceptibility testing**

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**Objectives:** The purpose of present study was to compare two commercial methods, MIC test strips® and Etest®, with the EUCAST reference broth microdilution (BMD) method. Use of rapid and reliable methods for *Candida* spp. susceptibility testing has become increasingly important in the clinical setting, as they support timely and targeted antifungal therapy. **Methods:** The study comprised 50 blood stream and sequencing characterized *Candida* spp. that were kept in the WFCC HCPF/UOA929 Collection. The selected *Candida* spp. represented common nosocomial isolates in our region in the years 2008-2011 and comprised 10 *C. albicans* strains, 10 *C. tropicalis*, 10 *C. krusei*, 10 *C. parapsilosis* (sensu stricto), and 10 *C. glabrata* (sensu stricto) susceptible to antifungal drugs. All isolates were tested for susceptibility to amphotericin B, flucytocine, fluconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, posaconazole, caspofungin, micafungin and anidulafungin by the MIC test strip® (Liofilchem, Italy), Etest® (Biomérieux, France), and the EUCAST EDF 7.1 BMD method. Percentage agreement between methods was calculated by converting the values of MICs from the MIC strip test® and Etest® to the nearest value of EUCAST  $\pm$  1 fold dilution. **Results:** The overall percentage agreement between MIC test strip® and EUCAST ranged from 65% (amphotericin B) to 98% (anidulafungin). For azoles percentage agreement ranged from 79% (posaconazole) to 94% (fluconazole) and for the echinocandins from 88% (caspofungin) to 98% (anidulafungin). Agreement between MIC test strip ® and Etest® ranged from 83% (posaconazole) to 100% (fluconazole and amphotericin B). Finally, the amphotericin B MIC values obtained from the MIC test strip® and Etest® for were higher for 69% and 80% of the isolates, respectively than those obtained by the EUCAST BMD method. **Conclusions:** By testing this population of susceptible isolates, the two commercial MIC tests provided equivalent results. The high amphotericin B MIC ( $\geq$  2 mg/L) recorded, and the low agreement, with the MIC test strips® and Etest®, suggest that the MIC values obtained by the commercial tests necessitate verification using the EUCAST BMD reference method.