

In vitro activity of fluconazole and voriconazole against clinical isolates of *Candida* spp. by E-test method.

ABSTRACT

The in vitro susceptibility of clinical *Candida* isolates towards fluconazole and voriconazole was determined using the E-test method. A total of 41 clinical isolates recovered from patients since 2004 until 2009 from two local hospitals in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia were used. These comprised *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida krusei*, *Candida parapsilosis*, *Candida rugosa*, *Candida dubliniensis* and *Candida glabrata*. Strains from American Type Culture Collection were used as quality control. Lawn cultures of the isolates on RPMI-1640 agar medium supplemented with 2% glucose were incubated with the E-test strips at 35°C for 48 h. Our results show that 71% were susceptible to fluconazole and 90% were susceptible to voriconazole. All strains of *C. krusei* were resistant to fluconazole and 50% were susceptible in a dose-dependent manner to voriconazole. There were 66% and 33% of *C. glabrata* that were resistant to fluconazole and voriconazole. Our study revealed that majority of the clinical *Candida* isolates was susceptible to fluconazole and voriconazole with a small percentage being resistant to both the drugs.

Keyword: *Candida* spp.; Voriconazole; Fluconazole; E-test