

Critical review of current clinical practice guidelines for antifungal therapy in paediatric haematology and oncology

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Dear Editor,

We read with interest the review of clinical practice guidelines for antifungal therapy in paediatric haematology and oncology published in January's edition [1]. Morgan and colleagues describe the importance of fungal infections in children, particularly those with haematological malignancies and undergoing allogeneic stem cell transplantation. As highlighted, significant variation in practice has been previously demonstrated.

In reviewing published clinical practice guidelines, Morgan et al. conducted an appropriate electronic review of the literature and included adult guidelines given that paediatric guidelines could be embedded. The authors note that the quality of the included guidelines was variable with only two meeting the pre-study definition of GOOD quality using the AGREE II assessment. [2].

We were pleased that a previous version of the Australasian paediatric antifungal guidelines (2007) was included [3], yet note that the comprehensive update of paediatric and adult Australian and New Zealand antifungal guidelines were omitted [4–12]. Published in December 2014, these expanded guidelines included manuscripts on prophylaxis, empiric and diagnostic-driven antifungal strategies, treatment of yeast, invasive mould and *Pneumocystis jirovecii* infection. They also provided guidance on optimising antifungal drug delivery and therapeutic drug monitoring. Comprehensive systematic reviews were undertaken and writing groups inclusive of infectious diseases physicians, haematologists, hospital pharmacists, microbiologists and infection prevention consultants [11]. A paediatrician with expertise in managing fungal infections was included in every writing group. All recommendations were assessed using the grading system endorsed by the

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Australian National Health and Medical Research Council and distributed for wider comment to key interest groups. Conflicts of interest were declared by all contributors. These guidelines now form the basis for national antibiotic and antifungal recommendations.

We write to highlight to readers of Supportive Care in Cancer, the additional high-quality, peer-reviewed antifungal prophylaxis and treatment clinical practice guidelines that may assist prescribers in managing individual patients and hospital and health-care facilities in developing institutional recommendations.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflicts of interest Prof Slavin has received investigator initiated funds from Merck and has previously been a member of advisory boards and speakers bureaus for Merck and Gilead Sciences. A/Prof Clark has previously received investigator-initiated research funds from Gilead. No funding was received in the preparation of this manuscript. Human ethics approval nor informed consent was required for this manuscript.

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