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Candidiasis in pregnancy guidelines

Published in CID, 12/16/2015 Clinical Infectious Diseases, Volume 62, Issue 4, 15 February 2016, Pages e1-e50, 16 December 2015 Peter G. Pappas, Carol A. Kauffman, David R. Andes, Cornelius J. Clancy, Kieren A. Marr, Luis Ostrosky-Zeichner, Annette C. Reboli, Mindy G. Schuster, Jose A. Vazquez, Thomas J. Walsh, Theoklis E. Zaoutis, Jack D. Sobel The full document, including tables and references, please visit the Oxford University Press website. It is important to recognize that the guidelines do not always account for individual differences in patients. They are not intended to displace the doctor's judgment regarding certain patients or specific clinical situations. THE IDSA considers that compliance with these guidelines is voluntary and should apply the final definition of their use by the doctor in the light of the individual circumstances of each patient. Keywords: candidemia, invasive candidiasis, fungal diagnostics, azoles, echinocandins Background Invasive infection due to Candida species is largely a condition that is medically developing and is widely recognized as the main cause of morbidity and mortality in the health environment. There are at least 15 different Candida species that cause human disease, but >90% of the invasive disease is caused by 5 of the most common pathogens: C. albicans, C. glabrata, C. tropicalis, C. parapsilosis, and C. krusei. Each of these organisms has unique virulence potential, antifungal sensitivity and epidemiology, but overall, significant infections caused to such organisms are usually called invasive candidiasis. Mucosal Candida infections, especially those affecting oropharynx, esophagus, and vagina are not considered classically invasive diseases, but they are included in these guidelines. Since the last iteration of these guidelines in 2009 [1], new data have been available on the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of proven or suspected invasive candidiasis, leading to significant changes to our treatment recommendations. The revised recommendations for the treatment of candidiasis in 2016 are summarised below. Given the relevance of the guidance to pediatrics, the guidelines have been reviewed and approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (PIDS). The Mycoses Study Group (MSG) has also approved these guidelines. The board followed a guidance development process adopted by the American Society for Infectious Diseases (IDSA), which systematically classifies both the quality of evidence (very low, low, moderate and high) and the strength of the recommendation (weak or strong) [2] (Figure 1). [3] The guidelines are not intended to replace clinical judgement in the treatment of individual patients. A detailed description of the methods, background and evidence supporting each proposal can be found in the full text guidelines. I. What is the treatment for Candidemia in nonneutropenic patients? Echinocandin (caspofungin: load dose 70 mg, then 50 mg per day; micafungin: 100 mg per day; anidulafungin: load dose 200 mg, then 100 mg per day) is recommended as an initial therapy (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Fluconazole, intravenous or oral, 800 mg (12 mg/kg) load dose, followed by 400 mg (6 mg/kg) per day is an acceptable alternative to echinocandin as an initial therapy for selected patients, including those who are not in critical condition and who are not considered likely to be a fluconazole-resistant Candida species (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). A study of azol sensitivity is recommended in all bloodstreams and other clinically significant Candida isolates. Consideration should be given to examining echinocandin sensitivity in patients who have previously been treated with echinocandin and among those with C. glabrata or C. parapsilosis (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). The transition from echinocandin to fluconazole (usually within 5-7 days) is recommended for patients who are clinically stable, have fluconazole-sensitive isolates (e.g. albicans, C. parapsilosis) and negative repeated blood cultures after initiation of antifungal treatment (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). In the case of infection with C. glabrata, the transition to higher doses of fluconazole (12 mg/kg) daily or voriconazole 200-300 (3-4 mg/kg) twice a day should only be considered in patients with fluconazole sensitivity or voriconazole-sensitive isolate (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Lipid preparation amphotericin B (AmB) (3-5 mg/kg per day) is a reasonable alternative if there is intolerance, limited availability, or resistance to other antifungal agents (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). The transition from AmB to fluconazole is recommended after 5-7 days in patients whose fluconazole-sensitive isolates are clinically stable and for whom cultures repeated in antifungal therapy are negative (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). AmB lipid preparation (3-5 mg/kg per day) (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence) is recommended in patients with suspected azol and echinocandin-resistant Candida infection. Voriconazole 400 mg (6 mg/kg) twice a day in 2 doses, followed by 200 mg (3 mg/kg) twice a day is effective for candidemia, but offers few benefits over fluconazole as an initial therapy (strong recommendation; moderate-grade evidence). Voriconazole is recommended as step-down oral therapy in selected cases of candidemia due to C. krusei (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). All non-neutropenic patients with candidemia should conduct dilated ophthalmic examinations within the first week of diagnosis, preferably by ophthalmologist (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Blood formation should be carried out every day every other day to determine the date when candidemia was clarified (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Recommended duration of therapy for candidemia without obvious post-2 weeks of documented clearance of Candida species into the bloodstream, and resolution of symptoms attributed to candidemia (strong recommendation; moderate-quality evidence). II. Should the middle vein catheters be removed from nonneutropenic patients with candidemia? Central venous catheters (CVCs) during candidemia should be removed as soon as possible if the source is classified as CVC and the catheter can be safely removed; this decision should be taken individually for each patient (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). III. What is the treatment of Candidemia in neutropenic patients? Echinocandin (caspofungin: load dose 70 mg, then 50 mg daily; micafungin: 100 mg per day; anidulafungin: load dose 200 mg, then 100 mg per day) is recommended as an initial therapy (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Lipid preparation AmB, 3-5 mg/kg per day, is an effective but less attractive alternative because of its potential toxicity (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Fluconazole, the load dose of 800 mg (12 mg/kg), followed by 400 mg (6 mg/kg) per day, is an alternative to patients not in critical condition and has not previously had exposure to azol (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). Fluconazole, 400 mg (6 mg/kg) twice a day in 2 doses, followed by 200-300 mg (3-4 mg/kg) twice a day, can be used in situations where additional mold coverage is desirable (poor recommendation; poor quality evidence). Voriconazole can also be used during neutropenia in clinically stable patients who have documented clearance of the bloodstream and isolates sensitive to voriconazole (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). Infections caused by C. krusei, echinocandin, lipid preparation AmB, or voriconazole are recommended (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). Recommended minimum duration of therapy for candidemia without any 2 weeks of documented clearance candida from the bloodstream, provided neutropenia and symptoms attributed to candidemia are resolved (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Ophthalmic records of candidal and vitreal infection are minimal until recovery from neutropenia; therefore, in the first week after recovery from neutropenia (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence), dilated funduscopic studies should be performed. In a neutropenic patient, sources of candidiasis differ from CVC (eg, gastrointestinal tract) dominate. Catheter (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF)-mobilized granulocyte transfusions can be considered in the case of persistent candidemia expected with prolonged neutropenia (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). IV. What is the treatment of chronic disseminated (hepatosplenitic) candidiasis? Initial therapy with lipid preparation AmB, 3-5 mg/kg per day or echinocandin (micafungin: 100 mg per day; caspofungin: 70 mg loading dose, then 50 mg daily; or anidulafungin: 200 mg loading dose, then 100 mg daily), recommended for several weeks, followed by oral fluconazole, 400 mg (6 mg/kg) per day, in patients unlikely to have fluconazole-resistant isolate (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Therapy should be continued until the lesions are dissolved during repeated imaging, which is usually several months. Premature discontinuation of antifungal treatment can lead to relapse (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). If chemotherapy or hematopoietic cell transplantation is required, it should not be delayed due to the presence of chronic disseminated candidiasis and antifungal therapy should be continued throughout the period of high risk for the prevention of relapse (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). In patients who have desensitizing persistent fever, short-term (1-2 weeks) treatment with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or corticosteroids may be considered (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). A. What is the role of empirical treatment in suspected invasive candidiasis nonneutropenic patients in the intensive care unit? Empirical antifungal therapy should be considered in critically ill patients who are not known to have risk factors for invasive candidiasis and other known causes of fever and should be based on a clinical assessment of risk factors, replacement markers for invasive candidiasis and/or culture from non-sterile sites (strong recommendation; moderate-quality evidence). Empirical antifungal therapy should be started as soon as possible in patients with the above risk factors and who have clinical signs of septic shock (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Preferred empirical therapy for suspected candidiasis nonneutropenic patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) is an echinocandin (caspofungin: load dose 70 mg, then 50 mg per day; micafungin: 100 mg per day; anidulafungin: loading dose 200 mg, then 100 mg daily) (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Fluconazole, a load dose of 800 mg (12 mg/kg), followed by 400 mg (6 mg/kg) per day is an acceptable alternative for patients who have not had fresh azol exposure and have not been colonised with azol-resistant Candida species (strong recommendation; moderate-quality evidence). Lipid preparation AmB, 3-5 mg/kg per day, is an alternative if there is intolerance to other antifungal agents (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Fluconazole, 12 mg/kg intravenous daily oral, is a reasonable alternative in patients who have not received fluconazole prophylaxis (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Lipid preparation AmB, 3-5 mg/kg per day, is an alternative, but should be used with caution, especially in the presence of urinary tract affected (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). Echinocandins should be used with caution and should generally be limited to rescue therapy or situations where resistance or toxicity precludes the use of AmB deoxycolate or fluconazole (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). Lumbar puncture and dilated retinal examination are recommended in neonates that have positive cultures (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence) for Candida species from blood and/or urine. Computed tomography or ultrasonic imaging of the urogenital tract, liver and spleen should be carried out if the blood cultures are persistently positive for Candida species (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Removal of CVC is highly recommended (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). The recommended duration of treatment of candidemia without obvious lytic complications is 2 weeks after documented excretion of Candida species from the bloodstream and resolution of symptoms attributable to candidemia (strong recommendation; weak). What is the treatment for CNS infections neonates? For initial treatment, AmB deoxycolate, 1 mg/kg intravenous daily, is recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). An alternative treatment is liposomal AmB, 5 mg/kg per day (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). This addition of flucytosine, 25 mg/kg 4 times a day, is considered residual therapy in patients who have not responded clinically to initial AmB treatment, but side effects are common (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). After the discharge treatment, the patient should return to initial treatment, fluconazole, 12 mg/kg per day, recommended isolates that are sensitive to fluconazole (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). 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flucytosin, 25 mg/kg 4 times a day for 2 weeks, (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). For *C. krusei*, AmB deoxycolate, 0.3–0.6 mg/kg, is recommended for 1–7 days per day (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Elimination of urinary obstruction is highly recommended (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). In patients who have nephrostomy tubes or stents in place, it is recommended to remove or replace it if feasible (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). What is the treatment of Candida urinary tract infection associated with fungal balls? Surgical intervention is highly recommended in adults (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). The above-mentioned antifungal treatment of cystitis or pyelonephritis is recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Watering nephrostomy tubes, if any, with AmB deoxycolate, 25–50 mg of 200–500 mL of sterile water, recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). XV. What is the treatment of vulvovaginal candidiasis? Treatment of uncomplicated *Candida* vulvovaginitis, topical antifungals, no one agent is better for the other of 2 or 3 doses, is recommended (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Alternatively, in the treatment of uncomplicated *Candida* vulvovaginitis, a single 150 mg oral dose of fluconazole is recommended (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). *C. glabrata* vulvovaginitis, which does not respond to oral azoles, topical intravaginal boric acid, is administered in one gelatin capsule, 600 mg daily, for 14 days is an alternative (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). Another alternative agent for *C. glabrata* infection is nystatin intravaginal suppositories, 100,000 units per day for 14 days (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). For recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis, 10–14 days of induction therapy with topical agent or oral fluconazole, followed by fluconazole, 150 mg per week is recommended for 6 months (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). XVI. What is the treatment of oropharyngeal candidiasis? Mild disease, clotrimazole troches, 10 mg 5 times a day, OR miconazol mucoadhesive triple50 mg tablets over the surface of the mucous membrane of the dog fossa once a day 7–14 days recommended (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). Alternatives to mild disease include nystatin suspension (100,000 U/mL) 4–6 mL 4 times a day, OR 1–2 nystatin pastils (200,000 U each) 4 times a day, 7–14 days (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). For moderate to severe illness, oral fluconazole, 100–200 mg daily, recommended for 7–14 days (strong high-quality evidence). Fluconazole refractor disease, itraconazole solution, 200 mg once a day OR posaconazole suspension, 400 mg twice a day for 3 days, then 400 mg daily, up to 28 days recommended (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Alternatives for fluconazole-refractory disease include voriconazole, 200 mg twice daily, OR AmB deoxycolate oral suspension, 100 mg/mL 4 times a day (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Intravenous echinocandin (caspofungin: 70 mg loading dose, then 50 mg daily; miconafungin: 100 mg daily; or anidulafungin: 200 mg load dose, then 100 mg daily) OR injecting AmB deoxycolate, 0.3 mg/kg per day, other alternative to refractor disease (weak recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Chronic suppressive therapy is usually unnecessary. If fluconazole is recommended in patients with recurrent infection, 100 mg 3 times a week (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In HIV-infected patients, antiretroviral therapy is highly recommended to reduce the incidence of recurrent infections (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In the case of candidiasis associated with dentures, disinfection of the dentures is recommended in addition to antifungal therapy (strong recommendation; evidence of moderate quality). XVII. What is the treatment of candidiasis of the esophagus? Systemic antifungal treatment is required. Diagnostic examination of antifungal therapy is appropriate before carrying out an endoscopic examination (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Oral fluconazole, 200–400 mg (3–6 mg/kg) per day, recommended for 14–21 days (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In patients who do not tolerate oral therapy, intravenous fluconazole, daily 400 mg (6 mg/kg) or echinocandin (miconafungin, 150 mg daily, caspofungin, 70 mg loading dose, then 50 mg daily; or anidulafungin, 200 mg daily; or voriconazole, 200 mg daily, OR posaconazole, 200 mg (3 mg/kg) twice a day intravenous or oral, recommended for 14–21 days (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Alternatives to fluconazole-refractor disease include echinocandin (miconafungin: 150 mg per day; caspofungin: 70 mg filling dose, then 50 mg daily; or anidulafungin: 200 mg daily) for 14–21 days, OR AmB deoxycholate, 0.3–0.7 mg/kg daily, for 21 days (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In patients who have recurrent esophagitis, chronic suppressive treatment fluconazole, 100–200 mg three times a week is recommended (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In the first section, the panel summarizes background information on the subject. In the second phase, the Panel will ask questions about the treatment of candidiasis, evaluate the applicable clinical trial and observation data and make recommendations within the framework of the Classification of Evaluation, Development and Evaluation of Recommendations (GRADE) [2]. The following 17 questions were answered: What is the treatment for candidemia in nonneutropenic patients? Can central venous catheters be removed in non-neutropenic patients with candidiasis? What is the treatment for chronic disseminated (hepatosplenic) candidiasis? What is the role of empirical treatment in suspected invasive candidiasis nonneutropenic patients in the intensive care unit? Should prophylaxis be used to prevent invasive candidiasis in the intensive care unit setting? What is the treatment for neonatal candidiasis, including central nervous system infection? What is the treatment for intra-abdominal candidiasis? Does the respiratory isolation of *Candida* species require antifungal therapy? What is the treatment for *Candida* invascular infections, including endocarditis and infections implantable in heart devices? What is the treatment for *Candida* osteoarticular infections? What is the treatment of *Candida* endophthalmitis? What is the treatment of CNS candidiasis? What is the treatment of urinary tract infections due to *Candida* species? What is the treatment of vulvovaginal candidiasis? What is the treatment for oropharyngeal candidiasis? What is the treatment of candidiasis of the esophagus? Infections caused by *Candida* species are the main cause of diseases and mortality in humans, causing a diverse spectrum of clinical diseases, from superficial and mucous infections to invasive diseases associated with candidemia and matic organ lesions. As an organism, candidemia is one of the most common health-related bloodstream infections in U.S. hospitals, typically ranking as the third or fourth most common cause of health-related bloodstream infection. A recent multicentre point prevalence survey identified candidiasis as the most isolated healthcare-related bloodstream agent [4]. Among patients with candidemia and other forms of invasive candidiasis, non-albicans *Candida* species account for approximately 50% of all relevant isolates, which has been continuous for more than a decade in many regions of the world [5–12]. The number of clinical candidiasis, candidiasis and invasive candidiasis received the most attention in clinical trials. Candidia can cause up to 47% mortality [5–13], and this is even higher among septic shock sufferers [14]. Many authors have demonstrated that mortality is closely linked to both therapy timing and resource control [14–19]. As a matter of fact, prior intervention with appropriate antifungal therapy and removal of contaminated central venous catheter (CVC) or draining of the infected substance usually have better overall results [14–19]. CVC is often linked to candidemia, but catheters are not always the source, especially for neutropenic patients who develop a common source of gastrointestinal tract. Most experts agree that thoughtful patient-specific treatment of CCs is critical to the overall treatment of infection [19]. Continued reliance on blood cultures, notoriously insensitive as markers of the disease, remains a major obstacle to early intervention. The development of reliable nonculture studies is crucial to provide an opportunity for previous intervention and more targeted antifungal therapy among a large number of patients for whom traditional blood cultures are insensitive or give untimely results [20]. The distribution of species is also a major challenge for all forms of candidiasis and there is significant geographical, medium and even unit variability in the occurrence of pathogenic *Candida* species [8–12]. Indeed, candidiasis is not one but several diseases; each *Candida* species presents its own unique characteristics with respect to tissue tropism, a willingness to cause invasive disease, virulence, and antifungal sensitivity. Knowing the ratio of local epidemiological and antifungal resistance is critical in making informed therapeutic decisions while awaiting culture and sensitivity data. Despite the overall robust nature of randomized controlled trials for the treatment of candidemia and other invasive candidiasis [21–34], one study did not demonstrate a clear superiority of one therapeutic agent over another. Careful analysis of these clinical data sometimes leads to conflicting conclusions. For example, the use of amphotericin B (AmB) and fluconazole is at least as effective as the use of higher doses of fluconazole alone (800 mg per day) in patients with candidemia [22], but in current practice this combination has little role, especially as echinocandins are such a safe and effective alternative. Similarly, voriconazole is just as effective as the strategy of sequential AmB and fluconazole for candidemia, but few would choose voriconazole in this setting, as it has few benefits and potentially greater toxicity associated with using this drug than other therapies [23]. Echinocandins in most episodes of candidemia and candidia preferred preferred candidiasis, except for the central nervous system (CNS), eye, and urinary tract infections due to these organisms. This preference is based on a tendency towards better results based on a strong safety profile, comfort, early fungicer activity, data from each study and a combined analysis of candidemia studies [19, 25] and the appearance of azol-resistant *Candida* species. The recent emergence of multi-resistant *Candida* species further complicates the selection of antifungal therapy in the near future [10, 12, 35–38], as there are no good forward-looking data to guide the therapy. There is a wealth of clinical data generated from large randomized clinical trials of candidemia, *Candida* esophagitis, oropharyngeal candidiasis, and prophylaxis studies in specialized populations, such as patients in intensive care units (ICUs), newborns, and selected transplant recipients, and these studies have led to important insights into optimal therapeutic approaches in these vulnerable populations. For those with less common manifestations of the disease, such as osteomyleitis, endophthalmitis, and infectious endocarditis, treatment recommendations are largely based on extrapolation from randomized trials in patients with other diseases, small retrospective series, and anecdotal reports. It is therefore critical to continuously evaluate this data in order to make timely recommendations for the treatment of patients with these less common forms of candidiasis. Panel composition The latest version of the Guidelines of the American Society for Infectious Diseases (IDSA) on the treatment of patients with candidiasis was published in 2009 [1]. For this update, the IDSA Standards and Practice Guidelines Committee (SPGC) convened a multidisciplinary panel of 12 experts to treat patients with candidiasis. The panel has 12 members of IDSA, and 11 adult infectious disease doctors and 1 pediatric infectious disease doctor. Each panel member was selected on the basis of their expertise in clinical and/or laboratory mycology, in particular candidiasis. The members of the Literature Review and Analysis Panel were commissioned to review the latest literature on at least 1 topic, evaluate the evidence, determine the strength of the recommendations and develop written evidence to support these recommendations. PubMed, which includes Medline (1946 to the present), was looking to identify relevant studies on candida guidelines for PICO (population/patient, intervention/indicator, comparative/control) issues. Search strategies have been developed and built by 2 independent health sciences librarians at the Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh. Librarians developed search strategies for each PICO question using PubMed's scripting language and corresponding search fields. Az Medical topic headers (MeSH) were used for the main search concepts of PICO questions. Used in all languages and in all publication years. The first searches were established and confirmed by wedges prepared between August and November 2013 by commission chairs of the guidelines and team leaders. Searches were finalized and delivered between the end of November 2013 and January 2014. After conducting literary searches, the authors continued to review the literature and added the relevant articles as needed. Process Overview The panel met twice in person and made a number of conference calls over 2 years. The Panel reviewed and discussed all recommendations, their strength and the quality of evidence. The contradictions have been discussed and resolved and all final recommendations represent the consensus opinion of the whole body. For the final version of these guidelines, the Panel reviewed all sections as a group. Evidence review: GRADE method grade is a systematic approach to the development of the Guidelines, described in detail elsewhere [2, 39]. IDSA adopted GRADE in 2008. In grade, the guidance body assigns each recommendation with a separate rating on the basic quality of the evidence supporting the recommendation and the strength of the preparation of the recommendation (Figure 1). Data from randomised controlled trials start as high quality and data from observational studies start with low quality. However, the panel may assess whether the specific characteristics of the data justify a reduction or increase in the classification of evidence and grade provides guidance on how these factors should be considered [39]. The strength assigned to the recommendation reflects, in particular, the trust of the Board that the benefits of following the recommendation are likely to outweigh the potential harm. While the quality of evidence is an important factor in choosing the imprecise strength of the recommendation, it is not prescriptive. Guidelines and conflicts of interest The panel of experts complied with IDSA's conflict of interest policy, which requires the disclosure of any financial or other interest that may constitute actual, potential or manifest conflict. The panel members received IDSA's declaration of conflict of interest and were asked to identify contacts with companies that could develop products that could be affected by the publication of the guidelines. They asked for information on employment, advice, share ownership, fees, research funding, expert testimony and membership of corporate advisory committees. Decisions have been taken on a case-by-case basis as to whether the role of the individual should be limited as a result of conflict. Lists any conflicts of interest in the Confirmations section. Consensus development based on evidence The panel received feedback from 3 external experts. The guidelines were adopted by MSG, the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS) have reviewed and approved it. The guidelines have been reviewed and approved by the IDSA SPGC and IDSA Board of Directors before distribution. Review dates At annual intervals, panel chairs are invited to contribute to the need to update the guidelines on the basis of examination of the current literature. The IDSA SPGC takes this input into account and determines the need and timing of the upgrade. Where appropriate, the entire body or part thereof of those shall be convened to discuss possible changes. Antifungal drugs Pharmacological considerations during the therapy of candidiasis Systemic antifungal drugs, which have been shown to be effective in the treatment of invasive candidiasis, include 4 main categories: polyenes (amphotericin B [AmB] deoxycolate, liposomal AmB, AmB lipid complex [ABLC], and amphotericin B colloidal dispersion [ABC]), triazole (fluconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, and posaconazole), echinocandins (caspofungin, anidulafungin, and miconafungin), and flucytosin. Data from a recently completed clinical trial comparing echinocandin for invasive candidiasis with isavuconazole are currently not available. Clinicians should be familiar with efficiency optimisation strategies by understanding the relevant pharmacokinetic properties. Amphotericin B Most experience AmB in the deoxycholate formulation. Three lipid formulations of AmB have been developed and approved in humans: ABLC, ABCD, and Liposomal AmB. These substances have the same activity spectrum as AmB deoxycolate, but daily dosing regimens and toxicity profiles differ for each agent. The 3 lipid preparation AmB agents have different pharmacological properties and rates of treatment-related side effects and cannot be replaced without careful consideration. In this document, the reference to amB, without contesting a particular dose or other form, shall be considered as a reference to the general use of any of the AmB preparations. For most forms of invasive candidiasis, the typical intravenous dose of AmB deoxycolate is 0.5 to 0.7 mg/kg per day, but invasive *Candida* infections caused by less susceptible species such as *C. glabrata* and *C. krusei* should take into account high doses such as 1 mg/kg. The typical dose of lipid preparation AmB is 3–5 mg/kg per day when used for invasive candidiasis. Nephrotoxicity is the most common serious adverse effect associated with AmB deoxycolate therapy, resulting in acute kidney damage and electrolyte-atrophying tubular acidosis in the majority of patients in up to 50% of recipients [40, 41]. AmB lipid preparations are more expensive than AmB deoxycolate, but each has significantly less nephrotoxicity [42, 43]. Most observers agree that lipid formulations, with the exception of ABCD, provoke fewer infusion-related reactions than AmB deoxycolate. In clinical trials, no the effect of pharmacokinetics and differences in toxicity of AmB lipid preparations. We are not aware of any forms, forms of candidiasis amB formulations are better than AmB deoxycolate in terms of clinical efficacy. In addition, we are not aware of a situation in which lipid preparations should not be used, except for urinary tract infections, because of decreased kidney excretion of these preparations. 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vitreal haziness. Furthermore, in the case of endophthalmitis, in which fungemia is not documented and the body is unknown, vitrectomy provides a substance of culture that is better than needle aspiration and allows the appropriate antifungal agent to be used [422, 424]. Treatment, if vitritis is documented similar to recommended chorioretinitis without vitreal involvement, the added recommendations (1) are administered either AmB deoxycolate or voriconazole in the vitreare to achieve high drug concentrations in the posterior chamber, and (2) it is carried out pars plana vitrectomy. Several small series noted success in patients who had early pars plana vitrectomy achieved [415, 423, 424, 452]. Removal of the vitreous body is usually accompanied by intravitreal injections of antifungal agents and, as mentioned above, the half-life of the injected antifungal agents is shortened by vitrectomy [450, 451]. The risk of retinal detachment, a serious late complication of endophthalmitis, is reduced with vitreal concern and early vitrectomy [412, 415]. For the best results, the endophthalmitis of Candida vitritis should be treated with close cooperation between the ophthalmologist and specialists in infectious diseases. XIII. What is the treatment of CNS candidiasis? Recommendations for initial treatment, liposomal AmB, 5 mg/kg daily, with or without oral flucytosine, 25 mg/kg 4 times daily recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). After step-down therapy, the patient responded to initial treatment, fluconazole, 400-800 mg (6-12 mg / kg) per day, recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Therapy should be continued until signs and symptoms, as well as CSF and radiological disorders, are eliminated (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Infected CNS devices, including ventriculostomy drains, bangs, stimulators, prosthetic reconstruction devices, and biopolymer wafers that deliver chemotherapy should be removed if possible (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). In patients in whom the ventricular device cannot be removed, AmB deoxycolate can be injected into the chamber through the device between 0.01 mg and 0.5 mg in 2 mL 5% dextrose water (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). Evidence Summary CNS Candida infections may occur as a manifestation of disseminated candidiasis as a complication of a neurosurgery procedure, especially when an intracranial device is inserted or rarely as an isolated chronic infection [453-462]. Meningitis is the most common appearance, but there are several small abscesses throughout the brain parenchyma, large solitary brain abscesses, and epidural [462]. Low birth weight of neonates is at high risk of CNS infection, as is the complication of candidemia; neonatal CNS candidiasis is addressed in the section on neonatal candida infections. Most infections occur due to C. albicans, with few reports of C. glabrata and other species causing infections [453-457, 459, 461, 462]. Treatment is based on the antifungal sensitivity of infectious species and the ability of the antifungal agent to achieve adequate concentrations in CSF and the brain. No randomised controlled studies have been conducted to evaluate the most appropriate treatment for these uncommon infections. Individual cases and small series have been reported. Most of the experience was gained using AmB deoxycolate, with or without flucytosine [453-455, 457, 459, 460, 462]. Liposomal AmB (AmBisome) has been found to reach higher levels in the brain than amphotericin B lipid complex (ABLC) or AmB deoxycolate in a rabbit model with Candida meningoencephalitis [44]. The combination of AmB and flucytosine is recommended because of the in vitro synergism noted by the combination and the excellent CSF concentration achieved by flucytosine. However, the toxic effects of flucytosine on the bone marrow and liver should be carefully monitored, preferably at frequent serum flucytosine levels. The optimal length of treatment in combination with AmB or flucytosine has not been studied. Several weeks of therapy are recommended before the transition to oral azol therapy. Fluconazole achieves excellent levels in CSF and brain tissue and has been shown to be useful as step-down therapy [453, 454, 459]. Fluconazole is also used as monotherapy; both success and failure and are therefore not recommended as first-line therapy [453, 454, 463-465]. In combination with fluconazole flucytosine, some patients [459] have been reported to cure Candida meningitis and this is a possible treatment regimen for step-down therapy. There are no reports of the use of voriconazole or posaconazole for CNS candidiasis. Voriconazole achieves excellent levels of CSF and should be taken into account in the rare case of C. glabrata, which is not voriconazole resistant or C. krusei meningitis after amb treatment with or without flucytosine. Posaconazole does not reach the right concentration in CSF, and this agent is not recommended. Echinocandins have rarely been used for CNS candidiasis. There are case reports of success [466], but CNS breakthrough infections have been reported in patients receiving echinocandin due to candidemia [467]. There are experimental animal data noting that anidulafungin and micafungin can successfully treat C. albicans meningitis, but the doses required in humans are much higher than those currently used for candidemia [296, 299]. Currently, echinocandins are not recommended for CNS candidiasis. Infected CNS devices should be removed to eradicate Candida. Most of the experience with external ducts and ventriculoperitoneal shunts infested with candida species [460, 463]. In recent years, infected devices include deep brain stimulators and Giladel biopolymer wafers that have been placed in place for a brain tumor to deliver chemotherapy locally. Although difficult to remove, experience has shown that these tools should be taken out to cure infection [456, 468, 469]. Intraventricular use of antifungal drugs is usually not necessary for the treatment of CNS Candida infections. In patients with a ventricular sulcus or external ventriculostomy removal that is too risky due to significantly increased intracranial pressure, or in patients who have not responded to systemic antifungal treatment, intraventricular AmB desociate has been shown to be useful [453, 454, 460, 463, 469]. The dose of intraventricular AmB deoxycolate is not standardized and recommendations vary from 0.01 mg to 1 mg 2 mL 5% dextrose water per day [455, 463, 466, 469]. Toxicity- mainly headache, nausea, and vomiting is a limiting factor when administering AmB on this pathway [454, 463]. XIV. What is the treatment of urinary tract infections due to Candida species? What is the treatment for asymptomatic Candiduria? Recommendations For the removal of predisposing factors, such as inhabiting bladder cysts whenever possible (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Treatment with antifungal drugs is NOT recommended, unless the patient belongs to a high-risk group; high-risk patients include neutropenic patients, infants with very low birth weight (<1500 g), and patients who have been subjected to urological procedures should be treated daily with 400 mg (6 mg/kg) of oral flucytosine, or AmB deoxycolate, a daily dose of 0.3-0.6 mg/kg for a few days before and after the procedure (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Evidence summary of candiduria is the usual trigger for a doctor to consider whether the patient has urinary tract infection due to Candida species. The most vulnerable patients of candiduria are those who are elderly, women, diabetic, have urine-inhabiting devices, are taking antibiotics and have previously undergone surgical intervention [470-475]. Candiduria almost always means colonization in an asymptomatic patient, and the elimination of underlying risk factors such as catheters in it is often appropriate to eliminate candiduria [471]. Several studies have found that candiduria does not often lead to candidemia [471, 472, 476-480]. Several of these studies have shown that candiduria is a marker of greater mortality, but death is not related to Candida infection and candida infection mortality rate [476, 480, 481]. A prospective study in kidney transplant patients found that although mortality was higher in patients with candiduria, the treatment did not improve the results, suggesting that candiduria was a marker of the severity of the underlying disease [482]. Many conditions require an aggressive approach to candiduria in asymptomatic patients. These include neonates of very low birth weight who are at risk of invasive candidiasis, which often includes the urinary tract [281, 483]. Many doctors who care for the treatment of neutropenic patients who have febrile and candiduria, because candiduria may indicate invasive candidiasis. However, a recent study in a cancer hospital where some patients, 25% of whom were neutropenic, found that these patients did not develop candidemia or other candida complications [484]. A number of reports documented the high rate of candidiasis when patients under undergo instrumentation [485, 486], leading to recommendations for peri-treatment with antifungal drugs. What is the treatment of symptomatic Candida Cystitis? Recommendations For fluconazole-sensitive organisms, oral flucytosine, 200 mg (3 mg / kg) per day is recommended for 2 weeks (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Fluconazole-resistant C. glabrata, AmB deoxycolate, 0.3-0.6 mg/kg daily 1-7 days OR oral flucytosine, 25 mg/kg 4 times a day 7-10 days recommended (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). For C. krusei, AmB deoxycolate, 0.3-0.6 mg/kg, is recommended for 1-7 days per day (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Removal of an indwelling vesicular cystostomy, if feasible, is highly recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). AmB deoxycolate bladder watering, 50 mg / L of sterile water per day for 5 days, may be useful in the treatment of cystitis due to fluconazole-resistant species such as C. glabrata and C. krusei (poor recommendation; poor quality evidence). What is the treatment of symptomatic increasing Candida Pyelonephritis? Recommendations For fluconazole-sensitive organisms, oral flucytosine, 200-400 mg (3-6 mg/kg) per day is recommended for 2 weeks (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Fluconazole-resistant C. glabrata, AmB deoxycolate, 0.3-0.6 mg/kg daily for 1-7 days, with or without oral flucytosine, 25 mg/kg 4 times daily, recommended (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). In the case of fluconazole-resistant C. glabrata, monotherapy with oral flucytosine, 25 mg/kg 4 times a day for 2 weeks, (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). For C. krusei, AmB deoxycolate, 0.3-0.6 mg/kg, is recommended for 1-7 days per day (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Elimination of urinary obstruction is highly recommended (strong recommendation; low quality evidence). In patients with an nephrostomy tube or stent, consider removal or replacement if evidence of poor quality. Evidence Summary Candida UTI may develop on 2 different routes [487]. Most symptomatic urinary tract infections develop as a growing infection ranging from the lower urinary tract, similar to the pathogenesis of bacterial UTI. In patients with an increasing infection, there may be symptoms of cystitis or pyelonephritis. Another way of infection is a consequence of hematogenous transmission to the kidneys in a patient who suffers from candidemia. In these patients, as a rule, there is no urinary tract symptom or sign and they are treated for candidemia. Diagnostic tests for urine often do not help with differentiating colonization of infection, or the clarification of the affected site of the urinary tract [488, 489]. For example, pyuria in a patient with an indoor flat bladder catheter can not distinguish Candida infection from colonization. Similarly, the number of colonies in the urine, especially if the catheter is present, should not be used to determine the infection [488, 489]. Imaging of the urinary tract by ultrasound or CT is useful in determining the formation of structural disorders, hydronephrosis, abscesses, emphysematous pyelonephritis and fungal ball [490-492]. Mycelia and the pooling of yeasts (fungal balls) in the bladder or kidneys lead to blockage and preclude successful treatment of infection with antifungal drugs [94]. Rarely, Candida species cause localized infections of prostate, epididymis, or testicles [491, 493-495]. Many principles are important in the approach to the treatment of Candida UTI. The ability of the antifungal agent to achieve an adequate concentration in the urine is as important as the antifungal sensitivity of the infected species [94]. Candida albicans, the most common cause of fungal UTI, are relatively easy to treat because they are sensitive to fluconazole, which has high concentrations in the urine. In contrast, the imistic cause of fluconazole-resistant C. glabrata and C. krusei can be extremely difficult to treat. Fluconazole is a medicine used to treat Candida UTI. It was shown to be effective in eradicating candiduria in the only randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial conducted in candiduria patients [496]. It is important to note that patients participating in the study were asymptomatic or had minimal symptoms of cystitis. Fluconazole is available as an oral preparation, excreted in the urine in its active form and easily reaches urine levels exceeding MIC for most Candida isolates [94]. Flucytosine demonstrates good activity against many Candida species, except C. krusei, and is secreted as an active drug in the urine [94]. Flucytosine treatment is limited by toxicity and the development of resistance when used as a single agent. AmB deoxycolate is active against most Candida species (although some C. krusei isolates are resistant) and achieves a concentration in the urine that exceeds MICs for most isolates, and even low doses have been shown to effectively manage Candida UTI [497]. The main drawback is the need for intravenous dosing and toxicity. AmB lipid preparations do not appear to reach a urine concentration suitable for UTI and should not be used [498]. All other antifungal agents, including other azol active substances and echinocandin, have minimal active drug excretion in the urine and are generally ineffective in the treatment of Candida UTI [94]. However, there have been numerous reports of patients who have been used echinocandins, mainly due to inu due to fluconazole-resistant organisms, and both success and failures [499-502] have been reported. Infection localized in the kidneys, as then the hematogenic spread, can probably be treated with echinocandins because the tissue concentration is adequate, although these agents do not reach the correct urine concentration [499]. Irrigation of the bladder with amb deoxycolate resolves candiduria in 80% to 90% of patients, as shown in a number of open studies, but in these studies recurrent candiduria was very common within a few weeks [503-505]. This approach is only useful for bladder infections and generally discoures it, especially in patients who, for other reasons, would not need a catheter [94, 506, 507]. Cystitis due to C. glabrata or C. krusei can sometimes be treated by amphotericin B bladder irrigation and endoscopic removal of possible blockage lesions [94]. What is the treatment of Candida urinary tract infection associated with fungal balls? Recommendations Surgical intervention is highly recommended in adults (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). The above-mentioned antifungal treatment of cystitis or pyelonephritis is recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Watering nephrostomy tubes, if any, with AmB deoxycolate, 25-50 mg of 200-500 mL of sterile water, recommended (strong recommendation; low-quality evidence). Evidence Summary Mushroom Balls is a rare complication of Candida UTI except for neonates, in whom fungal ball formation in the collection system often occurs as a manifestation of disseminated candidiasis [483]. In adults, surgical or endoscopic removal of obstructive mycelial mass plays a central role in successful treatment [94, 508, 509]. In neonates, some series documented the resolution of fungal balls with antifungal treatment [510], but others found that endoscopic removal was necessary [511, 512]. There are anecdotal reports of various techniques used to remove fungus balls from the kidney pelvis; these include endoscopic removal through a percutaneous nephrostomy tube, local infusion of streptomycin, and irrigation with antifungal drugs through a nephrostomy tube [511-513]. Fungus balls in the bladder and lower ureters can usually be removed endoscopically [509]. XV. What is the treatment of vulvovaginal candidiasis? Recommendations For uncompetitive Candida vulvovaginitis, topical antifungal neither agent better for the other, recommended (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). Sever acute Candida vulvovaginitis, fluconazole, 150 mg, given every 72 hours for a total of 2 or 3 doses, is recommended (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). Complication-free infection can be effectively treated with any single dose or short-term fluconazole for 3 days, both reach > 90% response [517, 518]. Treatment of vulvovaginal candidiasis should not be different based on the state of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; HIV-positive and HIV-negative women are expected to have the same response rate. Complicated vulvovaginal candidiasis requires therapy to be administered intravaginally, with topical drugs for 5-7 days or by mouth, every 72 hours with fluconazole 150 mg in 3 doses [54, 514]. Most Candida species, with the exception of C. krusei and C. glabrata, respond to oral fluconazole. Candida krusei reacts to all local antifungal agents. However, the treatment of C. glabrata vulvovaginal candidiasis is problematic [514, 516]. The most important decision to make is whether the presence of C. glabrata vaginal cultures reflects colonization of a patient who has another disease or indicates a real infection requiring treatment. Azol therapy, including voriconazole, is often unsuccessful [519]. Different local orders have sometimes proved effective. These include azole acid in gelatin capsules and mycstant intravaginal suppositories [520]. Topical 17% flucytosine cream can be used alone or in combination with 3% AmB cream in recalcitrant cases [520, 521]. These topical preparations, as well as azole gelatin capsules, should be aggravated by a pharmacist for special patient use. Azole-resistant C. albicans infections are extremely rare. However, the latest evidence has emerged to document the resistance of fluconazole and azole classes in women following prolonged exposure to azol [522]. Recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis, defined within 2 years as 4 episodes of symptomatic infection, is usually caused by azole-sensitive C. albicans [514, 523]. Contributing factors, such as diabetes, are rarely found. Treatment should be initiated for 10 to 14 days with induction therapy with topical agent or oral fluconazole, followed by maintenance azol treatment for at least 6 months [523-525]. The most convenient and well-tolerated treatment is 150 mg of fluconazole once a week. This treatment reaches the treatment of symptoms in >90% of patients [523]. A recurrence rate of 40% to 50% is expected after discontinuation of maintenance therapy. If fluconazole therapy is not possible, topical clotrimazole cream, 200 mg twice a week, clotrimazole 150 mg once a week, or other periodic oral or topical antifungal treatment is recommended [526, 527]. XV. What is the treatment of oropharyngeal candidiasis? Recommendations Mild disease, clotrimazole troches, 10 mg 5 times a day, OR micronazol mucoadhesive tablet50 mg tablets on the mucous surface of the dog fossa once a day 7-14 days recommended (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). Alternatives to mild disease include nystatin suspension (100,000 U/mL) 4-6 mL 4 times a day, or 1/2 nystatin pastilles (200,000 U 4 times a day, 7-14 days (strong medium-quality evidence). For moderate to severe disease, oral fluconazole, 100-200 mg per day, 7-14 days is recommended (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). Alternatives for fluconazole-refractory disease include voriconazole, 200 mg twice daily, OR AmB deoxycolate oral suspension, 100 mg/mL 4 times a day (strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence). Intravenous echinocandin (caspofungin: 70 mg loading dose, then 50 mg daily; or anidulafungin: 200 mg load dose, then 100 mg daily) OR injecting AmB deoxycolate, 0.3 mg/kg per day, other alternative to refractor disease (weak recommendation; moderate-quality evidence). Chronic suppressive therapy is usually unnecessary. If fluconazole is recommended in patients with recurrent infection, 100 mg 3 times a week (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In HIV-infected patients, antiretroviral therapy is highly recommended to reduce the incidence of recurrent infections (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Evidence Summary Of Oropharyngeal and Esophageal Candidiasis occurs in conjunction with HIV infection, diabetes, leukemia and other malignant tumors, steroid use, radiotherapy, antimicrobial therapy, and denture use [528, 529], and their occurrence is a recognized indicator of immune dysfunction. In HIV-infected patients, oropharyngeal candidiasis is most commonly found in patients with CD4 numbers <200 cells/ μ L [528-530]. The emergence of effective antiretroviral therapy has led to a dramatic decrease in the prevalence of oropharyngeal candidiasis and a significant decrease in refractory disease [531]. Fluconazole or multizole resistance is predominantly a consequence of previous repeated and long-term exposure to fluconazole or other azol [530-533]. In particular, in patients with advanced immunosuppression and low CD4 numbers, C. albicans resistance was described as the gradual emergence of non-albicans Candida species, in particular C. glabrata, C. krusei, and C. dubliniensis. They described the symptomatic infections caused by C. glabrata, C. dubliniensis and C. krusei [532-534]. Several randomized prospective studies of oropharyngeal candidiasis have been conducted involving AIDS patients and cancer patients. Most patients will initially respond to topical treatment [532, 535, 536]. In HIV-infected patients, symptomatic relapses may occur sooner and fluconazole [535]. In a multicenter randomized study of HIV-infected individuals, 50 mg of mucoadhesive pitabls of miconazole applied once a day to the mucous surface of the dog fossa were as effective as 10 mg of clotrimazole troches used 5 times a day [537]. Fluconazole tablets and itraconazole solution are better than ketoconol and itraconazole capsules [538-540]. The local effects of oral solutions can be as important as systemic effects. Posaconazole suspension is as effective as fluconazole in AIDS patients [541]. Posaconazole, a 100 mg delayed release tablet, is given 300 mg a day in one dose, approved by the FDA for prophylaxis for yeast infections in high-risk patients. The tablets provide stable bioavailability (about 55%), once-a-day injection and less stringent food requirements for absorption. This preparation has not been fully evaluated for mucous candidiasis, but, with further investigation, may replace oral suspension for this purpose. Recurrent infections typically occur in patients who have sustained immunosuppression, especially those who have AIDS and low CD4 cell counts (<50 cells/ μ L) [530-533]. Long-term suppressive therapy of fluconazole has been shown to be effective in preventing oropharyngeal candidiasis [53, 542, 543]. In a large multicenter study of HIV-infected patients, long-term suppressive treatment with fluconazole was compared to episodic use of fluconazole in response to symptomatic disease. Continuous suppressive therapy reduced relapses rates more effectively than intermittent therapy, but was associated with increased in vitro resistance. The incidence of refractory disease was the same in both groups [53]. Oral AmB deoxycolate, nystatin solution, and itraconazole capsules are less effective than fluconazole in preventing oropharyngeal candidiasis [544, 545]. Fluconazole refractory infections should initially be treated with an itraconazole solution; between 64% and 80% of patients will respond to this therapy [546, 547]. Posaconazole suspension is effective in approximately 75% of patients with refractory or esophageal candidiasis [548] and voriconazole is also effective in fluconazole refractory infections [549]. Intravenous caspofungin, micafungin and anidulafungin are effective alternatives to azol agents for refractory candidiasis [24, 87, 88, 550]. Oral or intravenous AmB deoxycolate is also effective in some patients; however, the pharmacist must be complex with the oral product [551]. For the treatment of refractory oral and esophageal candidiasis, immunomodulation was occasionally used with granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor or interferon- γ occasionally for the treatment of refractory oral and esophageal candidiasis [552, 553]. The decreasing rate of oral transport of Candida species and the frequency of symptomatic oropharyngeal candidiasis among HIV-infected patients are effective therapy [554]. Thus, antiretroviral therapy should be used as much as possible in HIV-infected patients with oropharyngeal or esophageal candidiasis. Chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis is a rare condition characterized by chronic, persistent onychomycosis and / or mucocutaneous lesions caused by Candida species. Some patients have thymoma or autoimmune polyendothelial syndrome type 1 [555]. Fluconazol should be used as an initial therapy for candidiasis in these patients. The response to antifungal treatment can be postponed if there is an extensive contact with the skin or nail. Due to internal immunodeficiency, most patients require chronic suppressive antifungal therapy and often develop azol-refractory infection [556]. Patients with fluconazole-refractory Candida infection should be treated in the same way as AIDS patients with AZOL refractory infections [528]. XVII. What is the treatment of candidiasis of the esophagus? Recommendations Systemic antifungal treatment is always necessary. Diagnostic examination of antifungal therapy is appropriate before carrying out an endoscopic examination (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). Oral fluconazole, 200-400 mg (3.6 mg/kg) per day, recommended for 14-21 days (strong recommendation; high quality evidence). A less preferred alternative for those who do not tolerate oral therapy, intravenous fluconazole, daily 400 mg (6 mg/kg) or echinocandin (micafungin, 150 mg daily, caspofungin, 70 mg loading dose, then 50 mg daily, or anidulafungin, 200 mg daily) is twice a day intravenous or oral, recommended for 14-21 days (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Alternatives for fluconazole-refractory disease include echinocandin (micafungin: 150 mg per day; caspofungin: 70 mg filling dose, then 50 mg daily; or anidulafungin: 200 mg daily) for 14-21 days, OR AmB deoxycolate, 0.3-0.7 mg/kg daily, for 21 days (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Posaconazole suspension, 400 mg twice a day, or extended-release tablets, 300 mg once a day, may be considered for fluconazole-refractory disease (poor recommendation; low-quality evidence). In patients who have recurrent esophagitis, chronic repressive treatment fluconazole, 100-200 mg three times a week is recommended (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). In HIV-infected patients, antiretroviral therapy is highly recommended to reduce the incidence of recurrent infections (strong recommendation; high-quality evidence). Summary of esophageal candidiasis usually occurs in lower CD4 counts than oropharyngeal disease [528-530]. The emergence of effective antiretroviral therapy has led to a dramatic decrease in the prevalence of candidiasis in the esophagus and a significant decrease in refractory disease [531]. In most cases, esophageal candidiasis is caused by C. albicans. However, symptomatic infections caused by C. glabrata, C. dubliniensis and C. krusei have been reported [534]. The presence of oropharyngeal candidiasis and dysphagia or odynophagia in an immunocompromised host is often predictive esophageal candidiasis, although candidiasis of the esophagus can appear as odynophagia without concomitant oropharyngeal candidiasis. Therapeutic examination of patients with suspected esophageal candidiasis with fluconazole is a cost-effective alternative to endoscopic examination. In general, the symptoms of most patients with esophageal candidiasis will improve or improve within 7 days of initiation of antifungal treatment [557]. Fluconazole is better than ketoconol, itraconazole capsules and fluconazole, and is similar to an itraconazole solution for the treatment of esophageal candidiasis [558, 559]; up to 80 % of patients with fluconazole-refractory infection respond to the itraconazole solution [547]. Voriconazole is as effective as fluconazole and has been successful in the treatment of fluconazole-refractory mucosal candidiasis [63, 549]. Echinocandins are as effective as fluconazole, but are combined with higher relapse rates than those observed for fluconazole [24, 87, 88, 550]. Thus, higher doses of echinocandins are recommended for use in esophageal disease, as they are used to reduce candidiasis relapses. Higher doses of micafungin [560] were tested. Fluconazole-refractory disease responds to caspofungin and it is likely that micafungin and anidulafungin are as effective as caspofungin. Recurrent infections are common in patients with advanced AIDS and long-term suppressive therapy of fluconazole effectively reduces recurrence rates [53]. The use of effective antiretroviral therapy dramatically reduced the incidence of esophageal candidiasis in HIV-infected patients. Accolades The panel of experts expresses its gratitude for the thoughtful assessment of the earlier versions of Anna Thorner and Pranatharthi Chandrasekhar; David van duin as liaison to the IDSA Committee on Standards and Practical Guidelines (SPGC). The panel appreciates the work of Charles B. Wessels and Michele Klein Fedyskin of the University of Pittsburgh's Health Sciences Library System to develop and implement systematic literary searches for this guidance. The financial support for the guidelines was provided by the American Society for Infectious Diseases. Potential conflict of interest The list below reflects the comparisons reported to IDSA. For the sake of transparency, full disclosure of all contacts, regardless of the relevance of the subject matter of the guidelines. The assessment of such relationships as potential conflicts of interest (COI) is determined by a review process that includes an assessment of the SPGC Chairman's relationship with the SPGC Development Board, and the Board of Directors' contacts with the SPGC and, if necessary, the Directorate's COI Working Group. This assessment of possible joint fiduciary relations is based on the relative weight of the financial relationship (i.e. the amount of money) and the relevance of the relationship (i.e. the extent to which an independent observer can reasonably interpret the association in relation to the subject or recommendation of consideration). The reader of these guidelines should keep this in mind when the publication list is reviewed. In the case of non-work activities submitted, Mr P. G. P. served as a consultant for Merck, Astellas (past), Gilead, T2 Biosystems, Scynexis, Viamet, IMMY Diagnostics and Pfizer (past) and received research grants from T2 Biosystems, Gilead, Merck, Astellas