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## Challenging clinical scenario of blood stream candida infections – An Indian experience

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Candida is an important cause of bloodstream infections (BSIs), causing significant mortality and morbidity. The true burden of candidemia in India is not clear. Thus, this study was conducted to evaluate the clinical characteristics, species distribution, antifungal susceptibility and outcome of candidemia at our hospital. A total of 165 episodes of *Candida* BSI were identified between January 2012 and April 2014, with 115 episodes occurring in adult patients. Most of the episodes occurred in males (69.6%). Nearly 82.6% patients were between 41 to 80 years and majority of the patients were in the intensive care unit (65.2%) at the time of diagnosis. Majority of the candidemia episodes were found in the general medicine department (23.5%) followed by gastrointestinal surgery (13.9%) and medical oncology & hematology (13%). Risk factors identified were prior hospitalization within one year (83.5%), antibiotic therapy within the last one month (64.3%), indwelling urinary catheter (63.5%), central venous catheter use (59.1%), diabetes mellitus (53%), severe sepsis (45.2%), mechanical ventilation (43.5%) and surgery (36.5%). *C. tropicalis* (30.4%) was the leading cause of infection followed by *C. parapsilosis* (28.7%) and *C. albicans* (13%). Other non-albicans species isolated included *C. haemulonii* (7.8%), *C. glabrata* (7%), *C. famata* (4.3%) and *C. krusei* (1.7%). Antifungal susceptibility to fluconazole was 87.9% (*C. parapsilosis*), 100% (*C. tropicalis*) and 93.3% (*C. albicans*). Mortality was noted in 51 patients (44.3%). To conclude, rapid changes in the rate of infection, potential risk factors, and emergence of non-albicans *Candida* demand continued surveillance of this serious BSI.

### Biography

Uma Devi P has completed her Ph. D. in Pharmacology from Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi. She has worked as Research Scientist at Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited, Gurgaon. Currently, she is working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Amrita School of Pharmacy, Kochi. She has published papers in reputed international journals.

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