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The impact of SARS-COV2 pandemic on the prevalence and the outcome of *Candida auris* infections, admitted to a tertiary hospital in United Arab Emirates (UAE), in 2022

Ahmad Subhi

Al-Qassimi Hospital, Emirates Health Services, UAE

In 2016, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Public Health England, *Candida auris*, has been labeled as an emerging multidrug-resistant (MDR) yeast. Despite causing significant mortality, there are still no available Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints for *C. auris*. When breakpoints of other candida species were applied, almost all *C. auris* isolates were noted to have high resistance to fluconazole. A substantial number of isolates were resistant to voriconazole and amphotericin B. Thus, leaving echinocandins as the empirical treatment of choice. Since its discovery, *C. auris* has caused hospital outbreaks in multiple countries in all continents. Interestingly, significant genetic variability of isolates has been identified depending on geographic location. Besides causing bloodstream, and wound infections, *C. auris* has also been isolated from cultures from urine and respiratory tract.

In terms of the UAE, *C. auris* was first reported in 2018, in the blood of an elderly lady requiring prolonged ICU stay due to septic shock from multiple sources with persistent fungemia. Therefore, aggressive infection control measures should be implemented for early identification and to avoid any potential transmission given the vulnerable status of the patients at risk of invasive *C. auris* infection.

Biography

Dr. Ahmad Subhi is a distinguished physician specializing in adult infectious diseases at the Department of Medicine in Al-Qassimi Hospital, under Emirates Health Services in the UAE. With extensive experience and a dedication to advancing infectious disease treatment and prevention, Dr. Subhi has played a vital role in enhancing healthcare standards within the Emirates. His clinical expertise encompasses diagnosing and managing complex infectious diseases, and he remains committed to research and education, aiming to reduce the burden of infectious diseases both regionally and globally. Dr. Subhi's contributions to public health are marked by his ongoing efforts to innovate in patient care and collaborative initiatives within the healthcare community.