

In Vitro Fluconazole and Voriconazole Susceptibilities of *Candida* Bloodstream Isolates in Korea: Use of the CLSI and EUCAST Epidemiological Cutoff Values

Min Joong Jang, M.D.¹, Jong Hee Shin, M.D.¹, Wee Gyo Lee, M.D.², Mi-Na Kim, M.D.³, Kyungwon Lee, M.D.⁴, Hye Soo Lee, M.D.⁵, Mi-Kyung Lee, M.D.⁶, Chulhun L. Chang, M.D.⁷, Hee-Chang Jang, M.D.¹, Eun Song Song, M.D.¹, Soo Hyun Kim, M.D.¹, Myung-Geun Shin, M.D.¹, Soon-Pal Suh, M.D.¹, and Dong-Wook Ryang, M.D.¹

Department of Laboratory Medicine¹, Chonnam National University Medical School and Chonnam National University Hospital, Gwangju; Department of Laboratory Medicine², Ajou University, Suwon; Department of Laboratory Medicine³, University of Ulsan College of Medicine and Asan Medical Center, Seoul; Department of Laboratory Medicine⁴, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul; Department of Laboratory Medicine⁵, Chonbuk National University Medical School, Jeonju; Department of Laboratory Medicine⁶, Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Seoul; Department of Laboratory Medicine⁷, Pusan National University College of Medicine, Busan, Korea

Background: At present, the clinical breakpoints (CBPs) of both fluconazole and voriconazole are available only for 3 common *Candida* species in the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) methods. Epidemiological cutoff values (ECVs) were recently applied to both methods to detect the emergence of acquired resistance (i.e., non-wild-type isolates) among 5 common *Candida* species.

Methods: We performed a nationwide study to determine the fluconazole and voriconazole susceptibility of *Candida* bloodstream isolates (BSIs) using both the CLSI and EUCAST methods. A total of 423 BSIs of 5 *Candida* species were collected from 8 hospitals. The azole susceptibilities were assessed on the basis of the species-specific CBPs and ECVs.

Results: Of the 341 BSIs of 3 common *Candida* species (i.e., *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, and *C. parapsilosis*), 0.3% and 0.9%, 0.0% and 1.5% of isolates were categorized as fluconazole and voriconazole resistant according to the CLSI and EUCAST CBPs, respectively. Of 423 total BSIs, 1.4% and 2.6% had fluconazole minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) exceeding the ECVs according to the CLSI and EUCAST, respectively; 1.0% and 2.1% had voriconazole MICs exceeding the ECVs according to the CLSI and EUCAST, respectively. Categorical agreement between the methods using ECVs was 98.3% for fluconazole and 98.3% for voriconazole.

Conclusions: The EUCAST and CLSI methods using ECVs provide highly concordant results. Moreover, non-wild-type isolates with possibly acquired azole resistance were rare among the BSIs of 5 common *Candida* species in Korea.

Key Words: *Candida*, Fluconazole, Voriconazole, EUCAST, CLSI, epidemiological cutoff value

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Corresponding author: Jong Hee Shin
Department of Laboratory Medicine,
Chonnam National University Medical
School, 671 Jebong-ro, Dong-gu, Gwangju
501-757, Korea
Tel: +82-62-220-5342
Fax: +82-62-224-2518
E-mail: shinjh@chonnam.ac.kr

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INTRODUCTION

Antifungal susceptibility testing against *Candida* is now recognized as a useful aid in patient management and resistance

surveillance [1-3]. There are 2 independent standards for antifungal susceptibility testing against *Candida*: the broth microdilution (BMD) method developed by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) in the United States and the BMD

method of the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) in Europe [4, 5]. These 2 methods are similar in that both use the BMD, while they differ in terms of inoculum size and minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) end-point determination [1]. Although both the CLSI and EUCAST have established clinical breakpoints (CBPs) for fluconazole and voriconazole, the EUCAST CBPs are species specific and apply only to *Candida albicans*, *Candida tropicalis*, and *Candida parapsilosis* [1, 6, 7]. The CLSI is currently revising CBPs for different *Candida* species [1-3]. The originally proposed CLSI CBPs were not species specific, and assigned values for the susceptibility to ≤ 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ fluconazole and ≤ 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ voriconazole were applied to all *Candida* species [4]. These CBPs are flawed in that a breakpoint is too high to provide a sensitive means of predicting the emergence of resistance among more susceptible species such as *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, and *C. parapsilosis* and simultaneously bisects the wild-type distribution of *Candida glabrata* [1, 3]. Therefore, the CLSI subcommittee reconsidered the MIC distributions for each species and antifungal agent, and developed epidemiological cutoff values (ECVs); these ECV data were used in conjunction with molecular, pharmacodynamic, and clinical data to revise the CBPs to provide species-specific interpretative criteria [1-3]. ECVs may also be used to identify isolates that are less likely to respond to antimicrobial therapy because of acquired resistance mechanisms when limited clinical data preclude the development of CBPs [3].

The EUCAST first defined the wild-type (WT) MICs and ECVs for the 5 most common *Candida* species: *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. glabrata*, and *Candida krusei* [1, 6, 7]. The WT MIC distribution is defined as the MIC distribution for isolates that exhibit no acquired or mutational resistance to the drug in question; meanwhile, non-WT isolates may possess acquired or mutational resistance mechanisms [1, 6]. The upper limit of the WT population is defined as the ECV. ECVs have recently been applied to EUCAST and CLSI antifungal susceptibility testing, and WT distributions from large collections of the 5 most common *Candida* species show that the CLSI and EUCAST methods yield similar ECVs [1]. While CBPs are used to identify isolates likely to respond to treatment with a given antimicrobial agent administered at its approved dosing regimen, the ECV may serve as the most sensitive measure of the emergence of strains with reduced susceptibility (i.e., acquired resistance) to that agent [3, 8, 9].

To date, no data on the antifungal susceptibility of *Candida* bloodstream isolates (BSIs) have been obtained using the EUCAST method or species-specific CBPs or ECVs in Korea.

Therefore, we performed a multicenter study to determine the susceptibilities of *Candida* BSIs to fluconazole and voriconazole in Korea using both the CLSI and EUCAST methods. We also applied the species-specific CBPs and ECVs for *Candida* BSIs, for the first time. In addition, we compared the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods for testing 2 azole agents against *Candida* species using ECVs.

METHODS

1. *Candida* isolates

All *Candida* BSIs were prospectively and routinely collected from blood cultures at 8 tertiary hospitals in Korea between September 2009 and August 2010. Some *Candida* isolates were provided by the Chonbuk National University Hospital Culture Collection for Pathogens. Duplicate *C. albicans* isolates from the same patient were excluded. Species identification and antifungal susceptibility testing of the *Candida* isolates were performed at Chonnam National University Hospital. Speciation was based on colony morphology on CHROMagar *Candida* (BBL, Becton Dickinson, Sparks, MD, USA) at 35°C and a commercially available biochemical identification system (API 20C or Vitek 2 ID-YST; bioMérieux, Marcy L'Etoile, France). During the study period, a total of 440 *Candida* BSIs were collected from the 8 hospitals. Of these, 423 (96.1%) were the 5 most-common *Candida* species and were evaluated: 170 *C. albicans*, 93 *C. tropicalis*, 79 *C. glabrata*, 78 *C. parapsilosis*, and 3 *C. krusei* isolates).

2. Antifungal susceptibility testing

In vitro fluconazole and voriconazole susceptibility testing was performed on all isolates using both the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods. The CLSI BMD method was performed according to document M27-3 using RPMI 1640 medium containing 0.165 M MOPS, an inoculum of $0.5\text{-}2.5 \times 10^6$ cells/L, and incubation at 35°C [4]. In the CLSI method, the MICs were determined visually 24 hr after incubation as the lowest concentration of a drug that caused $\geq 50\%$ inhibition in growth compared to control levels. The recently revised CLSI CBPs were used to identify *Candida* strains resistant to fluconazole and voriconazole. A fluconazole MIC ≤ 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered susceptible, 4 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered susceptible dose dependent (SDD), and ≥ 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered resistant for *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. tropicalis*; a fluconazole MIC ≤ 32 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered SDD, while ≥ 64 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered resistant for *C. glabrata*; a voriconazole MIC ≤ 0.12 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered susceptible, 0.25-0.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered intermedi-

ate, and ≥ 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered resistant for *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. tropicalis*; a voriconazole MIC ≤ 0.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered susceptible, 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered intermediate, and ≥ 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ was considered resistant for *C. krusei* [1-3].

EUCAST BMD testing was performed as described in document EDef 7.1 using RPMI 1640 medium containing 2.0% glucose, an inoculum of $0.5\text{--}2.5 \times 10^8$ cells/L, and incubation at 35°C [5]. MICs were determined as the lowest concentration of drug that resulted in $\geq 50\%$ inhibition of growth compared to control levels spectrophotometrically at 530 nm after incubation for 24 hr. Interpretative breakpoints proposed by the EUCAST for fluconazole (susceptible, ≤ 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; resistant, >4 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) and voriconazole (susceptible, ≤ 0.125 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; resistant, >0.125 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) were used for only *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. tropicalis* [6, 7]. Two reference strains, *C. parapsilosis* ATCC 22019 and *C. krusei* ATCC 6258, were used as quality-control isolates in each antifungal susceptibility test.

3. Comparison of the CLSI and EUCAST methods

The fluconazole and voriconazole MIC results obtained by the EUCAST method were compared to those obtained by CLSI M27 BMD after incubation for 24 hr. Essential agreement was defined when the MICs from the 2 methods were within 2 dilutions (i.e., 2 wells) of each other. Categorical agreement was obtained on the basis of the recently described fluconazole and voriconazole ECVs for the CLSI-24 hr (0.5 and 0.03 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. albicans*, 2 and 0.12 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. parapsilosis*, 2 and 0.06 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. tropicalis*, 32 and 0.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. glabrata*, and 64 and 0.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. krusei*, respectively) [1, 3] and EUCAST (1 and 0.12 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. albicans*, 2 and 0.12 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. parapsilosis*, 2 and 0.12 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. tropicalis*, 32 and 0.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. glabrata*, and 128 and 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for *C. krusei*, respectively) [6, 7]. Isolates with MICs less than or equal to the respective ECVs were termed susceptible WT isolates, while the others were considered resistant non-WT isolates [1, 8, 9]. Discrepancies were considered to be very major when an isolate classified as non-WT by the CLSI ECV was categorized as WT by the EUCAST ECV and major when an isolate classified as WT by the CLSI ECV was classified as non-WT by the EUCAST ECV.

RESULTS

Table 1 summarizes the *in vitro* susceptibilities of 423 BSIs of 5 *Candida* species to fluconazole and voriconazole as determined by the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods. For all 423 BSIs, the antifungal MIC ranges determined by the CLSI and EUCAST

methods were similar: 0.125-64 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 0.125-128 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for fluconazole and 0.03-2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 0.03-4 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for voriconazole, respectively. For most isolates, the fluconazole and voriconazole MICs obtained by the EUCAST method tended to be one twofold dilution higher than those obtained by the CLSI method. The overall rates of essential agreement (i.e., within 2 dilutions) between the CLSI and EUCAST MIC results were 97.6% for fluconazole and 98.3% for voriconazole. Of the 341 BSIs of the 3 most common species (*C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, and *C. parapsilosis*), only 3 (0.9%) and 5 (1.5%) were resistant to fluconazole (MIC ≥ 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$), and voriconazole (MIC ≥ 0.25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) according to the EUCAST method, respectively, and 1 (0.3%) and 0 (0.0%) isolates were resistant to fluconazole (MIC ≥ 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) and voriconazole (MIC ≥ 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) according to the CLSI method, respectively. Of the 79 *C. glabrata* isolates, only 3 (3.8%) were fluconazole resistant (MIC ≥ 64 $\mu\text{g/mL}$), while the remaining 76 (96.2%) were SDD (MIC ≤ 32 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) according to the CLSI.

Table 2 shows categorical agreement between the results of the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods for fluconazole and voriconazole using the ECVs. When the species-specific fluconazole ECVs were applied, the percentages of non-WT isolates determined by the CLSI and EUCAST methods were 0.6% and 0.0% for *C. albicans*, 0.0% and 2.2% for *C. tropicalis*, 3.8% and 5.1% for *C. glabrata*, 2.6% and 6.4% for *C. parapsilosis*, and 0.0% and 0.0% for *C. krusei*, respectively. In addition, the percentages of non-WT isolates with voriconazole MICs exceeding the ECVs according to the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods were 0.0% and 0.0% for *C. albicans*, 0.0% and 4.3% for *C. tropicalis*, 5.1% and 5.1% for *C. glabrata*, 0.0% and 1.4% for *C. parapsilosis*, and 0.0% and 0.0% for *C. krusei*, respectively. Overall, when applying species-specific ECVs, 1.4% and 2.6% of isolates were categorized as fluconazole-resistant non-WT isolates (i.e., exceeding the ECVs) by the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods, respectively; meanwhile, 1.0% and 2.1% were categorized as voriconazole-resistant non-WT isolates, respectively. The percentages of categorical agreement between the CLSI and EUCAST methods were 98.3% for fluconazole and 98.3% for voriconazole. The overall rates of categorical discrepancies between the EUCAST and CLSI methods were 1.6% for fluconazole (very major errors, 0.2%; major errors, 1.4%) and 1.7% for voriconazole (very major errors, 0.0%; major errors, 1.7%).

DISCUSSION

The CLSI and EUCAST have both published ECVs for the 5 most

Table 1. *In vitro* antifungal susceptibilities of 423 bloodstream isolates of 5 common *Candida* species to fluconazole and voriconazole determined by the CLSI and EUCAST methods

Species (N of isolates tested)	Antifungal agent	Test method*	MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)		Essential agreement (%) [†]	N (%) of isolates by category [‡]		
			Range	Mode		S	SDD/I	R
<i>C. albicans</i> (170)	Fluconazole	CLSI	0.125-1	0.125		170 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	0.125-0.5	0.125	100.0	170 (100.0)	NA	0 (0.0)
	Voriconazole	CLSI	≤ 0.03	0.03		170 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	≤ 0.03	0.03	100.0	170 (100.0)	NA	0 (0.0)
<i>C. tropicalis</i> (93)	Fluconazole	CLSI	0.125-0.5	0.25		93 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	0.125-8	0.125	93.5	91 (97.8)	NA	1 (1.1)
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.03-0.06	0.03		93 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.03-4	0.03	95.7	89 (95.7)	NA	4 (4.3)
<i>C. glabrata</i> (79)	Fluconazole	CLSI	1-64	4		NA	76 (96.2)	3 (3.8)
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	1-128	4	100.0	NA	NA	NA
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.03-2	0.06		NA	NA	NA
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.03-4	0.125	97.5	NA	NA	NA
<i>C. parapsilosis</i> (78)	Fluconazole	CLSI	0.125-16	0.5		76 (97.4)	1 (1.4)	1 (1.4)
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	0.125-16	0.5	94.9	73 (93.6)	NA	2 (2.6)
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.03-0.125	0.03		78 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.03-0.5	0.03	98.7	77 (98.7)	NA	1 (1.4)
<i>C. krusei</i> (3)	Fluconazole	CLSI	8-16	16		NA	NA	NA
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	16-32	32	100.0	NA	NA	NA
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.06-0.125	0.06		3 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.06-0.25	0.125	100.0	NA	NA	NA
Total (423)	Fluconazole	CLSI	0.125-64	0.125				
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	0.125-128	0.25	97.6			
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.03-2	0.03				
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.015-4	0.015	98.3			

*CLSI, MIC results obtained by CLSI M27-3 BMD method after 24-hr incubation; EUCAST, MIC results obtained by the BMD method of the EUCAST; [†]Essential agreement ($\pm 2\log(2)$ dilutions) between CLSI and EUCAST MICs; [‡]The results were obtained by the recently revised CLSI CBPs [3] and CBPs proposed by EUCAST [6, 7]

Abbreviations: CLSI, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; EUCAST, European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing; S, susceptible; SDD, susceptible dose dependent; I, intermediate; R, resistant; NA, not available; BMD, broth microdilution; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; CBP, clinical breakpoint.

common *Candida* species against fluconazole and voriconazole; they are currently revising their species-specific CBPs for several antifungal agents and various *Candida* species to further harmonize both methods [1-3]. Although revised species-specific CBPs for both fluconazole and voriconazole are not available for less common *Candida* species at present, the CLSI has proposed revised CBPs for 3 common *Candida* species by utilizing molecular, microbiologic, pharmacodynamic, and clinical data [3]. The EUCAST CBPs also apply only to 3 common *Candida* species [6, 7]. When CBPs are unavailable, ECVs can be applied to local and global antifungal surveillance studies to detect the emergence of antifungal resistance among *Candida*

species [3, 8, 9]. The present study is the first to compare EUCAST and CLSI MIC results for BSIs of 5 common *Candida* species from 8 hospitals in Korea and determine the fluconazole and voriconazole susceptibilities of *Candida* BSIs in Korea using species-specific CBPs and ECVs.

In the present study, only 1 (0.3%) isolate of 3 common *Candida* species (i.e., *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, and *C. parapsilosis*) was categorized as fluconazole resistant on the basis of the revised CLSI CBPs; none were categorized as voriconazole resistant. Meanwhile, only 3 (0.9%) and 5 (1.5%) isolates were resistant to fluconazole and voriconazole, respectively, according to the EUCAST method. Several global surveillance programs us-

Table 2. Categorical agreement between the results of the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods for fluconazole and voriconazole and *Candida* species based on ECVs

Species (N of isolates tested)	Antifungal agent	Test method	ECV* (µg/mL)	N of isolates (%) with indicated results:		Categorical agreement (%)	% of categorical discrepancies [†]	
				≤ECV	>ECV		VM	M
<i>C. albicans</i> (170)	Fluconazole	CLSI	0.5	169 (99.4)	1 (0.6)			
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	1	170 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	99.4	0.6	0.0
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.03	170 (100.0)	0 (0.0)			
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.12	170 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	100.0	0.0	0.0
<i>C. tropicalis</i> (93)	Fluconazole	CLSI	2	93 (100.0)	0 (0.0)			
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	2	91 (97.8)	2 (2.2)	97.8	0.0	2.2
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.06	93 (100.0)	0 (0.0)			
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.12	89 (95.7)	4 (4.3)	95.7	0.0	4.3
<i>C. glabrata</i> (79)	Fluconazole	CLSI	32	76 (96.2)	3 (3.8)			
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	32	75 (94.9)	4 (5.1)	98.7	0.0	1.3
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.5	75 (94.9)	4 (5.1)			
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	1	75 (94.9)	4 (5.1)	97.5	0.0	2.5
<i>C. parapsilosis</i> (78)	Fluconazole	CLSI	2	76 (97.4)	2 (2.6)			
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	2	73 (93.6)	5 (6.4)	96.2	0.0	3.8
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.12	78 (100.0)	0 (0.0)			
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	0.12	77 (98.7)	1 (1.4)	98.7	0.0	1.2
<i>C. krusei</i> (3)	Fluconazole	CLSI	64	3 (100.0)	0 (0.0)			
	Fluconazole	EUCAST	128	3 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	100.0	0.0	0.0
	Voriconazole	CLSI	0.5	3 (100.0)	0 (0.0)			
	Voriconazole	EUCAST	1	3 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	100.0	0.0	0.0
Total (423)	Fluconazole	CLSI		417 (98.6)	6 (1.4)			
	Fluconazole	EUCAST		412 (97.4)	11 (2.6)	98.3	0.2	1.4
	Voriconazole	CLSI		419 (99.0)	4 (1.0)			
	Voriconazole	EUCAST		414 (97.9)	9 (2.1)	98.3	0.0	1.7

*The ECVs of CLSI and EUCAST were obtained from references [1, 3, 6, 7]; [†]VM, very major discrepancies when an isolate classified as non-wild type (above ECV) by the CLSI ECV was categorized as wild type by the EUCAST ECV; M, major discrepancies when an isolate classified as wild type by the CLSI ECV was classified as non-wild type by the EUCAST ECV.

Abbreviations: CLSI, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; EUCAST, European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing; BMD, broth microdilution; ECV, epidemiological cutoff value.

ing CBPs also demonstrate that the majority of BSIs of 3 common *Candida* species are susceptible to fluconazole and voriconazole [10-13]. However, a recent study indicates a slight but consistent increase in possible resistance to fluconazole and voriconazole among non-WT isolates of 3 common *Candida* species according to the EUCAST and CLSI ECVs [8]. Although *Candida* isolates for which the azole MICs exceed the ECV may still respond to clinical treatment as the MIC may lie below the CBP, ECVs can be a sensitive measure for detecting the emergence of *Candida* strains with decreased fluconazole and voriconazole susceptibility [1-3].

To date, few comparative studies of CLSI and EUCAST antifungal data obtained using ECVs have been performed, except one international study by Pfaller et al. [14]. This global multi-center study determined the rates of non-WT isolates among 1,056 clinical isolates of 5 common *Candida* species to be 3.0% and 5.5% for fluconazole and 2.6% and 4.3% for voriconazole on the basis of ECVs determined by the CLSI and EUCAST methods, respectively. In the present study, the prevalence of non-WT isolates was 1.4% and 2.6% using fluconazole ECVs determined by the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods, respectively, and 1.0% and 2.1% using voriconazole ECVs, respec-

tively. These results show that the prevalence of non-WT BSIs of *Candida* species in Korea remains lower than that in other geographic regions. Pfaller et al. [15, 16] report that the prevalence of azole resistance among *Candida* isolates is variable both over time and by country and region. Although the prevalence of azole resistance among *Candida* species is not entirely related to antifungal drug pressure, our previous study provides the first evidence that increased fluconazole use can be significantly correlated with an increased number of fluconazole non-susceptible *Candida* isolates from clinical specimens [17].

C. glabrata is innately less susceptible to azoles than most other *Candida* species and rapidly acquires secondary azole resistance following exposure to fluconazole [18, 19]. The azole resistance frequency among *C. glabrata* BSIs may impact the empiric antifungal therapy choice [15]. The EUCAST has refrained from assigning CBPs for fluconazole and voriconazole to *C. glabrata* and advises alternative drugs to manage infections caused by this species [6, 7]. In contrast to the EUCAST, the CLSI recently revised the CBPs for fluconazole and *C. glabrata* to $<32 \mu\text{g/mL}$ for SDD and $\geq 64 \mu\text{g/mL}$ for resistant with the caveat that a maximum dose of fluconazole of 800 mg/day (12 mg/kg/day) be used when treating *C. glabrata* infections with fluconazole [3]. When the new CLSI CBPs were applied to the 79 *C. glabrata* isolates in the present study, 3 (3.8%) and 76 (96.2%) were resistant and SDD to fluconazole, respectively. In a previous global multicenter study, the prevalence of non-WT *C. glabrata* isolates according to the ECVs determined by the CLSI and EUCAST methods was 6.9% and 9.7% for fluconazole and 9.1% and 15.4% for voriconazole, respectively [14]. In the present study, the prevalence of non-WT *C. glabrata* isolates according to the ECVs determined by the CLSI and EUCAST methods was 3.8% and 5.1% for fluconazole and 5.1% and 5.1% for voriconazole, respectively. These results show that the azole resistance rates of *C. glabrata* BSIs in Korea remain lower than those in other geographic regions.

Similar to the present study, the global multicenter study by Pfaller et al. [14] demonstrates excellent essential agreement between the CLSI and EUCAST results with respect to susceptibility to fluconazole (98.6% within 2 dilutions) and voriconazole (96.9%). Our data indicate excellent categorical agreement between the CLSI and EUCAST BMD methods for all 5 *Candida* species for both fluconazole (98.3%) and voriconazole (98.3%). Pfaller et al. [14] also observed excellent categorical agreement (96%) for all comparisons between the CLSI and EUCAST methods for all *Candida* species except *C. parapsilosis* (90.8% categorical agreement; 0.6% very major discrepancies). In their

study, the prevalence of fluconazole resistance among *C. parapsilosis* isolates was relatively high (17.9% and 9.9% determined by the EUCAST and CLSI methods, respectively). In the present study, the categorical agreement between the CLSI and EUCAST methods for *C. parapsilosis* was 96.2% and the prevalence of resistant non-WT *C. parapsilosis* isolates determined by the CLSI and EUCAST methods was 6.4% and 2.6%, respectively. Therefore, the high categorical agreement in the present study may be due in part to the low frequency of fluconazole resistance in our collection of BSIs of 5 *Candida* species common in Korea.

In conclusion, our data shows that the EUCAST and CLSI methods using ECVs provide highly concordant results for fluconazole and voriconazole susceptibility in 5 *Candida* species. Furthermore, the results suggest ECVs are sensitive for detecting the emergence of fluconazole and voriconazole resistance in these *Candida* species. When we examined the fluconazole and voriconazole susceptibilities of 5 major *Candida* BSIs using the ECVs, the rates of resistance were found to be low.

Authors' Disclosures of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article were reported.

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