

Antifungal susceptibility of *Candida* species: Unique efficacy of caspofungin

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Caspofungin is an echinocandin antifungal agent with broad-spectrum activity against *Candida* and *Aspergillus* spp. The in vitro activities of caspofungin were compared with those of fluconazole and itraconazole against 3,959 isolates of *Candida* spp obtained from over 95 different medical centers worldwide. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the antifungal drugs were determined by broth microdilution tests performed according to the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) method using RPMI 1640 as the test medium. Caspofungin was very active against *Candida* spp (MIC₉₀, 1 µg/ml; 96% of MICs were less than or equal to 2 µg/ml). *Candida albicans*, *C. dubliniensis*, *C. tropicalis* and *C. glabrata* were the most susceptible species of *Candida* (MIC₉₀, 0.25-0.5 µg/ml) and *C. guilliermondii* was the least susceptible (MIC₉₀, greater than 8 µg/ml). Caspofungin was very active against *Candida* spp exhibiting high-level resistance to fluconazole and itraconazole (99% of MICs were less than or equal to 1 µg/ml). These results provide further evidence for the spectrum and potency of caspofungin against a large and geographically diverse collection of clinically important isolates of *Candida* spp.

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