




# Detection of Echinocandin-Resistant *Candida glabrata* in Blood Cultures Spiked with Different Percentages of *FKS2* Mutants

María Ángeles Bordallo-Cardona,<sup>a,b</sup> Carlos Sánchez-Carrillo,<sup>a,b</sup> Emilio Bouza,<sup>a,b,c,d</sup> Patricia Muñoz,<sup>a,b,c,d</sup> Pilar Escribano,<sup>a,b</sup>  
 Jesús Guinea<sup>a,b,c,d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain

<sup>b</sup>Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain

<sup>c</sup>CIBER Enfermedades Respiratorias-CIBERES (CB06/06/0058), Madrid, Spain

<sup>d</sup>Medicine Department, School of Medicine, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

**ABSTRACT** Infections caused by the coexistence of *Candida glabrata* echinocandin-resistant and echinocandin-susceptible cells may be possible, and the detection of *FKS* mutants when the proportions of *FKS* mutants are underrepresented poses a problem. We assessed the role of EUCAST and methods directly performed on positive blood cultures—Etest (ET<sub>DIR</sub>) and anidulafungin-containing agar plate assays—for detecting resistance in *C. glabrata* isolates containing different amounts of echinocandin-susceptible and -resistant *Candida glabrata* isolates. We studied 10 pairs of *C. glabrata* isolates involving parental echinocandin-susceptible isolates and isogenic echinocandin-resistant *FKS* mutant isolates. Three inocula per pair ( $1 \times 10^3$  to  $5 \times 10^3$ ,  $1 \times 10^2$  to  $5 \times 10^2$ , and 10 to 50 CFU/ml) spanning suspensions with different amounts of susceptible/resistant isolates (9/1, 5/5, and 1/9 proportions for each the three inocula) were prepared. The suspensions were spiked in Bactec bottles and incubated until they were positive, and the three methods were compared. The EUCAST method showed echinocandin resistance when the bottles were spiked with susceptible/resistant isolates at 5/5 and 1/9 proportions; the results for the suspensions with a 9/1 proportion of susceptible/resistant isolates were susceptible for three pairs. We observed with the ET<sub>DIR</sub> resistance to both echinocandins in all pairs (resistance to micafungin and anidulafungin; MICs,  $\geq 0.064$  mg/liter and  $\geq 0.125$  mg/liter, respectively) and a double ring of growth inhibition in two pairs. The anidulafungin-containing plates showed fungal growth in the 90 spiked blood cultures at 48 h. Testing of echinocandin susceptibility with the ET<sub>DIR</sub> directly on the positive blood culture bottles is a reliable and rapid method to detect echinocandin resistance in *C. glabrata*. On the other hand, resistance can be missed with the EUCAST method when resistant isolates are underrepresented.

**KEYWORDS** *Candida glabrata*, EUCAST procedure, echinocandins, Etest, resistance

The incidence of invasive fungal infections is increasing, and mortality rises when the initiation of appropriate antifungal therapy is delayed (1–3). *Candida glabrata* is one of the main causes of invasive candidiasis, and its occurrence is growing (4, 5). Among the most important factors associated with invasive *C. glabrata* infections are the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, catheters, and parenteral nutrition; the presence of immunosuppression; the disruption of mucosal barriers; and chemotherapy/radiotherapy (6).

Echinocandin resistance in *C. glabrata* poses a problem for the management of patients due to its intrinsic low level of susceptibility to azoles and the poor prognosis for patients infected by echinocandin-resistant isolates (4, 5). The risk factors for developing echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* candidemia are previous echinocandin

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Address correspondence to Jesús Guinea, [jguineaortega@yahoo.es](mailto:jguineaortega@yahoo.es).

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**TABLE 1** Micafungin and anidulafungin MICs against the isolates from bottles spiked with the different tested inocula and proportions

Inoculum (CFU/ml)	Proportion	EUCAST micafungin/anidulafungin MIC (mg/liter) for the following pair <sup>a</sup> :									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 × 10 <sup>3</sup> –5 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	9S/1R	1/2	2/1	4/2	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.125	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	0.5/2	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	0.125/0.25
	5S/5R	2/2	2/1	4/2	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.25	1/2	1/1	1/2	0.5/1	4/2
	1S/9R	1/2	1/0.5	4/2	0.5/1	0.064/0.25	1/1	1/2	1/2	0.5/1	4/2
1 × 10 <sup>2</sup> –5 × 10 <sup>2</sup>	9S/1R	1/0.5	0.064/0.125	2/2	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.125	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	0.5/1	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	0.25/0.25
	5S/5R	0.5/0.5	0.5/0.25	4/2	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.125	1/1	2/1	0.5/2	0.5/0.5	4/2
	1S/9R	0.25/0.125	0.25/0.125	4/2	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.25	1/2	1/2	1/2	0.5/1	4/2
10–50	9S/1R	1/0.5	0.25/0.125	1/0.5	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.125	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	<b>0.015/0.064</b>	1/2	<b>0.032/0.064</b>	0.125/0.25
	5S/5R	1/0.5	0.5/0.125	1/0.5	0.25/0.5	0.064/0.125	1/0.5	0.5/0.25	1/2	0.5/0.5	4/2
	1S/9R	2/1	2/1	4/2	0.5/0.5	0.064/0.25	1/2	2/1	0.5/2	0.5/0.5	4/2

<sup>a</sup>Bold numbers indicate EUCAST MICs showing echinocandin susceptibility for the tested isolates after preparing the inoculum from slime.

exposure, solid organ transplantation, recent gastrointestinal surgery or a recent gastrointestinal disorder, and multiple episodes of *C. glabrata* bloodstream infections (4, 7). Moreover, recent studies have reported that the abdominal cavity and mucosal surfaces may serve as reservoirs for resistant isolates (8, 9). Echinocandins are indicated to be the first line of treatment in cases of invasive candidiasis (10), a recommendation supported by the low rate of echinocandin resistance (1, 11, 12). However, some studies have provided alerts on the increased rates of echinocandin resistance in *C. glabrata* strains causing infection in some geographic areas (4, 5). Echinocandin resistance in *C. glabrata* is associated with the presence of mutations in hot spots of the *FKS1* and *FKS2* genes (5).

The rapid detection of echinocandin resistance in *C. glabrata* in blood samples can contribute to the improvement of patient care. Molecular detection of resistance would speed up the results, although to date these techniques are pending on validation for their use with blood samples (5, 13). In a previous study, we showed that the Etest directly performed on positive blood cultures (ET<sub>DIR</sub>) is a reliable procedure to rapidly detect fluconazole- and echinocandin-resistant isolates (14–16). Moreover, anidulafungin-containing plates were useful to screen for the presence of echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* isolates directly from positive blood cultures (16).

Data on the antifungal susceptibility obtained using standardized testing procedures, such as the CLSI or EUCAST procedures, are mainly obtained from isolates recovered from automated blood culture systems, such as the Bactec FX system (Becton, Dickinson, Cockeysville, MD, USA) (17, 18). The scenario in which infections are caused by the coexistence of echinocandin-resistant cells and echinocandin-susceptible ones may be possible. In situations in which the proportion of *C. glabrata* *FKS* mutants in culture is underrepresented in comparison to the proportion of wild-type isolates, the reliability of detection of *C. glabrata* *FKS* mutants using standard methods and rapid methods (anidulafungin-containing agar plate assays or ET<sub>DIR</sub>) is unknown.

In this study, we aimed to examine the accuracy of the EUCAST EDef 7.3.1 standard procedure and the rapid techniques (ET<sub>DIR</sub> and anidulafungin-containing agar plates) for assessing susceptibility to echinocandin antifungals in *C. glabrata* isolates using inocula with different proportions of echinocandin-susceptible and echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* isolates.

## RESULTS

**Antifungal susceptibility of isolates spiked in bottles following the EUCAST standard procedure.** Ninety bottles were spiked with the nine possible combinations of inocula and different proportions of susceptible/resistant isolates. The antifungal susceptibility of the isolates was performed from the slime on the plates and is shown in Table 1. The isolates in cultures from bottles spiked with suspensions containing

**TABLE 2** Number of individual colonies obtained from each culture from the 90 spiked bottles<sup>a</sup>

Inoculum (CFU/ml)	Proportion	No. of colonies for the following pair:																			
		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
		S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R
$1 \times 10^3$ – $5 \times 10^3$ ( $n = 266$ colonies)	9S/1R	7	0	4	2	10	0	4	4	5	2	5	3	5	4	9	0	8	1	7	2
	5S/5R	7	3	5	5	4	6	6	4	5	4	4	5	6	4	6	4	4	4	6	3
	1S/9R	2	6	3	7	2	5	2	8	3	5	2	8	4	5	0	8	4	6	3	6
$1 \times 10^2$ – $5 \times 10^2$ ( $n = 253$ colonies)	9S/1R	5	1	6	3	4	1	8	2	6	2	4	5	6	4	8	2	8	1	6	2
	5S/5R	2	3	6	4	0	6	7	3	6	3	4	5	4	3	7	2	6	3	5	4
	1S/9R	0	6	2	8	0	6	5	5	5	4	2	7	4	6	1	9	3	5	3	5
10–50 ( $n = 233$ colonies)	9S/1R	6	3	4	2	4	2	5	1	6	3	5	4	4	4	7	1	8	1	7	2
	5S/5R	4	4	3	2	0	6	5	3	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	7	2
	1S/9R	0	6	3	5	0	4	4	6	3	5	3	5	2	5	2	5	3	5	6	3

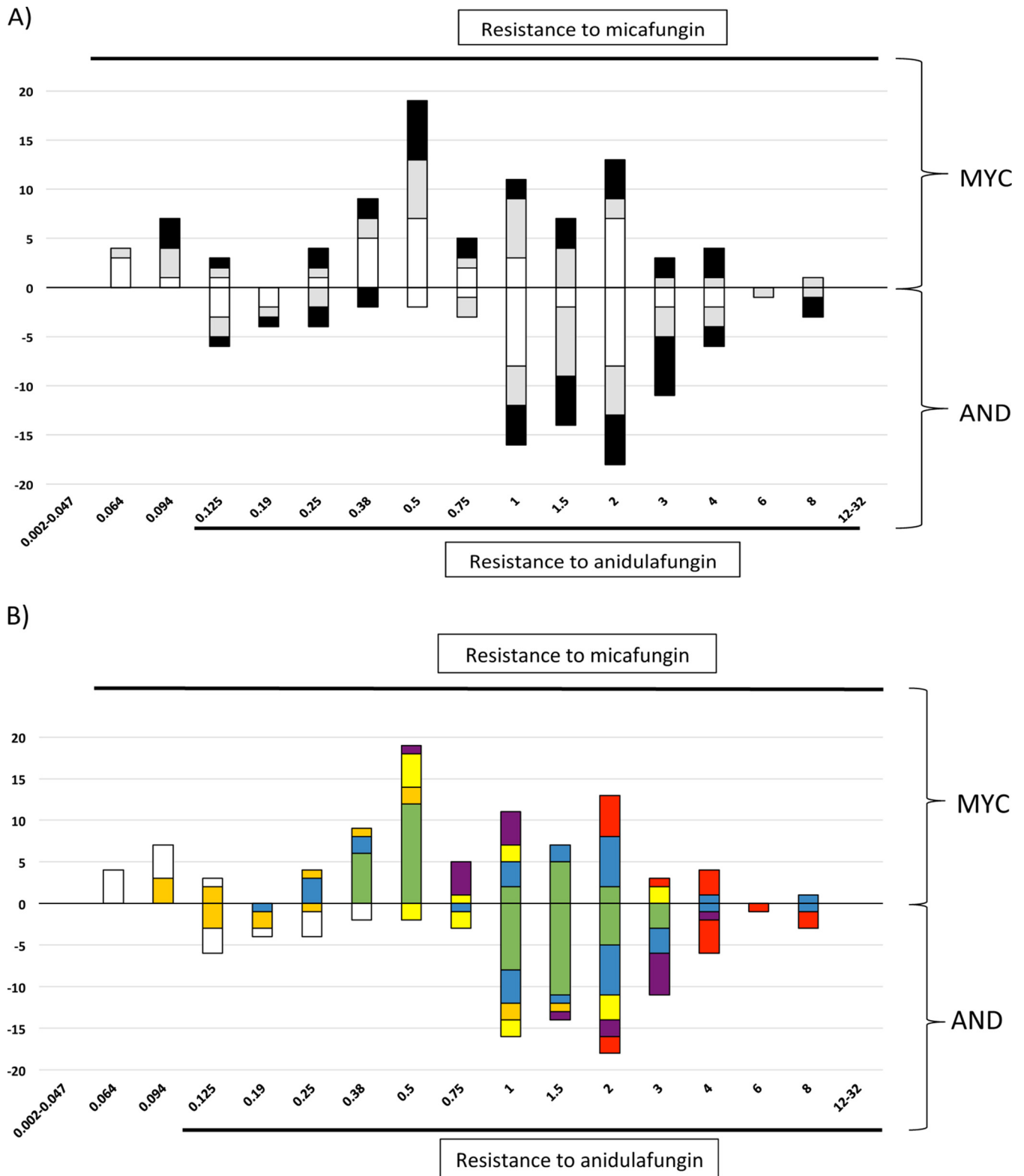
<sup>a</sup>Colonies were classified as susceptible or resistant to both echinocandins according to the EUCAST clinical breakpoints. S, echinocandin-susceptible colonies; R, echinocandin-resistant colonies.

susceptible/resistant isolates in proportions of 5/5 and 1/9 were phenotypically resistant to both micafungin and anidulafungin. On the other hand, the isolates in cultures from 3 out of the 10 bottles (pairs 6, 7, and 9) spiked with suspensions of susceptible/resistant isolates in proportions of 9/1 were susceptible to both echinocandins (Table 1).

Seven hundred fifty-two individual colonies from the 90 bottles ( $n = 266$ ,  $n = 253$ , and  $n = 233$  colonies from the  $10^3$ -,  $10^2$ -, and 10-CFU/ml inocula, respectively) were tested and determined to be susceptible ( $n = 393$ ) or resistant ( $n = 359$ ) to both echinocandins (Table 2). Overall differences in the number/percentage of echinocandin-resistant colonies ( $n = 124/46.6\%$ ,  $n = 120/47.4\%$ , and  $n = 115/49.4\%$  from the  $10^3$ -,  $10^2$ -, and 10-CFU/ml inocula, respectively) did not reach statistical significance ( $P > 0.05$ ). However, the higher that the proportion of resistant isolates in the suspension used to spike the bottles was, the higher that the proportion of resistant colonies counted on the plates was, regardless of the inoculum used ( $P < 0.05$ ) (see Fig. S2 in the supplemental material). This was consistently observed for every tested pair (Table 2). Colonies in cultures from bottles spiked with suspensions with susceptible/resistant isolates in 5/5 and 1/9 proportions were either susceptible and/or resistant to echinocandins. However, resistant colonies were missing from three pairs of cultures from bottles spiked with suspensions with susceptible/resistant isolates in a 9/1 proportion (pairs 1, 3, and 8; Table 2).

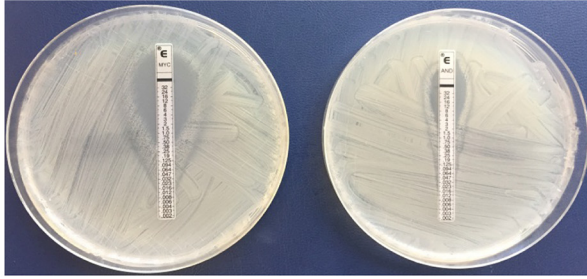
**Antifungal susceptibility testing using ET<sub>DIR</sub>.** Ninety ET<sub>DIR</sub> tests to detect anidulafungin and micafungin susceptibility were performed. Using the breakpoints of EUCAST, ET<sub>DIR</sub> classified the isolates from the 90 bottles as resistant to both echinocandins. A wide distribution of MICs was observed, regardless of the proportion of susceptible/resistant isolates spiked in the blood culture (Fig. 1A). Conversely, the type of mutation was of great relevance regarding the MICs obtained by ET<sub>DIR</sub>; certain mutations leading to high MICs for both echinocandins by the EUCAST method resulted in elevated ET<sub>DIR</sub> MICs (Fig. 1B). The setting of the MIC was easy in most cases, but the ET<sub>DIR</sub> showed the presence a double ring of growth inhibition for pairs 7 and 8. The thickness of the inner halo (probably representing the resistant isolate) increased with higher proportions of the resistant isolate in the suspension used to spike the blood culture; inner halo growth was taken into account to set the MIC (Fig. 2).

**Screening of resistance on anidulafungin-containing agar plates.** Two fungal growth patterns were seen for the 90 spiked blood cultures in the plates incubated for 24 to 48 h. Slime-like growth was detected at 24 h of incubation, whereas single colonies were noticed in pairs 4, 5, and 9, which turned positive only when the incubation was extended to 48 h. Furthermore, the isolates producing single colonies were from blood cultures spiked with isogenic isolates with lower MICs of anidulafun-

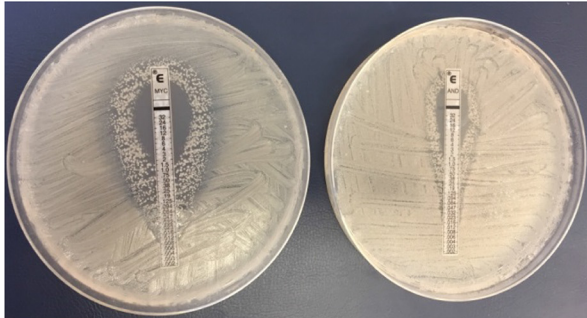


**FIG 1** Distribution of micafungin and anidulafungin MICs obtained using  $ET_{DIR}$  of cultures from the 90 spiked bottles. Numbers of isolates are shown along the y axis and MICs (in mg/liter) are indicated along the x axis. (A) Micafungin (MYC) and anidulafungin (AND) MICs for isolates obtained from blood cultures spiked with suspensions containing different proportions of susceptible/resistant isolates (white bars, 9/1; gray bars, 5/5; black bars, 1/9). (B) The results for isolates with different *FKS2* mutations, including the *FKS2* wild-type isolate classified as resistant by the EUCAST method, are shown. White bars, *FKS2* wild-type isolate classified as resistant by the EUCAST method; orange bars, isolate with the *FKS2* E655A mutation; blue bars, isolate with the *FKS2* S663P mutation; green bars, isolate with the *FKS2*  $\Delta$ F658 deletion; yellow bars, isolate with the *FKS2* W715L mutation; purple bars, isolate with the *FKS2* S663Y mutation; red bars, isolate with the *FKS2* D666N mutation.

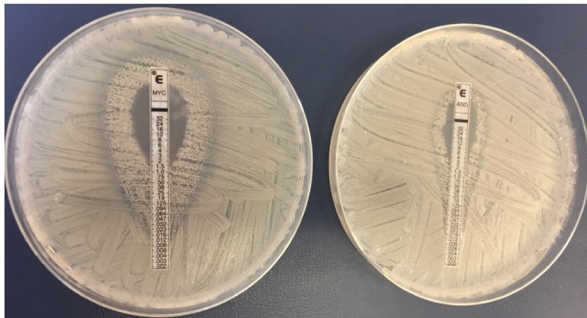
A) 9S/1R



B) 5S/5R



C) 1S/9R



**FIG 2**  $ET_{DIR}$  of micafungin and anidulafungin showing a double ring of growth inhibition in the  $1 \times 10^3$ - to  $5 \times 10^3$ -CFU/ml inoculum in suspensions containing different proportions of susceptible/resistant isolates: 9/1 (A), 5/5 (B), or 1/9 (C). MYC, micafungin; AND, anidulafungin.

gin and micafungin by the EUCAST method (Table 3). As mentioned above for  $ET_{DIR}$ , the results were not affected by the inoculum.

## DISCUSSION

To the best of our knowledge, in this study we detected for the first time, using a Bactec FX automated blood culture system, echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* isolates present in low proportions, regardless of the type of *FKS2* gene mutation or echinocandin MIC.  $ET_{DIR}$  and assays with anidulafungin-containing agar plates performed directly with spiked positive blood cultures proved to be reliable procedures to detect echinocandin resistance in all the tested scenarios.

Current Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) guidelines recommend echinocandin susceptibility testing on isolates causing fungemia, particularly in patients who had previously been exposed to echinocandins or infected by *C. glabrata* (10). The screening for echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* is a must, given the emergence of resistance in some institutions (4, 19, 20). The reasons for the differences in the rates of echinocandin resistance between institutions is unclear. These may be due to conditions of the blood culture systems that prevent resistant isolates from thriving or missed resistance detection when standard antifungal susceptibility testing methods, such as the EUCAST method, are used. Different proportions of susceptible/resistant isolates were spiked into the blood cultures. Thus, we performed antifungal suscepti-

**TABLE 3** Micafungin and anidulafungin MICs for the isolates in each used pair to prepare the spiked suspensions in Bactec bottles and *FKS2* gene sequence of the tested isolates<sup>a</sup>

Pair	Isolate	EUCAST MYC/AND MIC (mg/liter)	<i>FKS2</i> gene sequence
1	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	4/2	ΔF658
2	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	4/2	ΔF658
3	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	4/2	S663P
4	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	0.25/0.5	E655A
5	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	0.064/0.25	WT
6	Parental	0.015/0.015	WT
	Isogenic	0.5/0.5	W715L
7	Parental	0.015/0.015	WT
	Isogenic	2/1	ΔF658
8	Parental	0.015/0.064	WT
	Isogenic	1/2	S663Y
9	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	0.064/0.5	D666N
10	Parental	0.015/0.032	WT
	Isogenic	2/1	S663P

<sup>a</sup>MYC, micafungin; AND, anidulafungin. Parental isolates were phenotypically echinocandin susceptible, and isogenic ones were phenotypically echinocandin resistant. Pairs 1 to 8 came from a previous study and involved susceptible isolates from blood samples exposed *in vitro* to either micafungin or anidulafungin and the corresponding resistant ones generated (27, 28). Pairs 9 and 10 originated in two patients with candidemia who developed concomitant echinocandin-resistant endocarditis. The parental and isogenic isolates in each pair proved to be genotypically identical. WT, wild type.

bility testing by preparing different inocula for the EUCAST method. When we tested a loopful from the slime, resistance was missed in 3 out of the 10 pairs with the lowest proportion of the resistant isolate. Not being able to detect resistance by the EUCAST method was not related to a *FKS2* mutation or to the MIC (Table 3). Likewise, resistance was also missed in blood cultures with the lowest proportion of resistant isolates after picking up single colonies from the plates in three pairs. This implies that the preparation of inoculum suspensions following the EUCAST EDef 7.3.1 method (21) (selecting 4 to 5 colonies from the plate) does not ensure the detection of resistance, as shown by pairs 1, 3 and 8, from which only susceptible colonies were obtained from the bottles spiked with the lowest proportion of resistant isolates (Table 2).

Since the EUCAST procedure does not ensure the detection of resistant isolates, we studied alternative methods, such as ET<sub>DIR</sub> and assays with anidulafungin-containing plates. We had previously shown that ET<sub>DIR</sub> performed directly with positive blood cultures allowed detection of resistance to fluconazole and echinocandins (14–16). Furthermore, we studied ET<sub>DIR</sub> using cultures from bottles spiked with different proportions of echinocandin-susceptible/echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* isolates. ET<sub>DIR</sub> showed micafungin and anidulafungin MICs of  $\geq 0.064$  mg/liter and  $\geq 0.125$  mg/liter, respectively; the MIC values depended on the type of *FKS2* mutation rather than on the proportion of resistant isolates and the inoculum spiked in the bottles. We did not spike the bottles with inocula containing only susceptible isolate in the pairs, because a previous study carried out by our group showed MICs of anidulafungin and micafungin of  $\leq 0.047$  mg/liter against the same isolates by ET<sub>DIR</sub> (16). A double ring of growth inhibition was observed in some cases with ET<sub>DIR</sub>; this phenomenon has previously been reported in other species, such as *Candida lusitanae* with amphotericin B and *Aspergillus fumigatus* with caspofungin (22, 23). The wider that the inner halo is, the higher that the proportion of spiked resistant isolates is (Fig. 2). These results suggest that ET<sub>DIR</sub> can rapidly (24 h) determine the presence of heteroresistance in the blood cultures, which can be missed using the EUCAST standard procedure.

The assay with antifungal-containing plates, an inexpensive and easy procedure to



rule out the presence of resistance, has recently been tested to screen antifungal resistance in *Candida* and *Aspergillus* (16, 24). In this study, we found that all cultures from anidulafungin-containing plates were positive, regardless of the proportion of resistant isolates or the inoculum used. However, the two detected growth patterns mirrored the MICs of the isolates: isolates with high MICs were easily detected after 24 h of incubation, whereas the other isolates, including the *FKS* wild-type, phenotypically resistant isolate, required up to 48 h of incubation. Likewise, in our previous study we showed that phenotypically susceptible isolates failed to grow on the plates (16).

The median number of *Candida* spp. circulating in the bloodstream has been estimated to be  $\leq 1$  CFU/ml (range, 0.1 and  $>1,000$  CFU/ml), and the number for *C. glabrata* is lower than that for other species (25). Our experimental conditions simulated real-life candidemia (assuming that 10 ml of blood from venipuncture was inoculated in the bottles and that the lowest inoculum spiked [10 to 50 CFU/ml] mimicked a load of 1 to 5 CFU/ml circulating in the blood). Given that the inoculum did not seem to have a great impact on the results, our experimental conditions can be extrapolated to clinical samples.

There are certain limitations in this study. First, we studied only *C. glabrata* isolates; however, the emergence of resistance to echinocandins and/or to multiple antifungals mainly affects this species (4, 19, 20). Second, not all *C. glabrata FKS1* and *FKS2* gene mutations have been studied, although the most commonly reported substitution, S663, was included among the six mutations tested in this study (5). Third, studies should be carried out with automatic systems other than the Bactec system. Fourth, the reliability of our procedure for the detection of mutants in cases of candidemia episodes caused by *Candida* blood loads below 1 CFU/ml is unknown. Finally, although the procedure worked well in our hospital, future interlaboratory studies to validate the role of  $ET_{DIR}$  are warranted.

In conclusion, the Bactec automatic system allows the detection of echinocandin-resistant *C. glabrata* isolates from blood cultures. However, when resistant isolates are underrepresented, their detection can be missed with the EUCAST standard procedure.  $ET_{DIR}$  is a reliable and a rapid method to detect resistance to micafungin and anidulafungin, ensuring detection in potential situations of increasing echinocandin resistance.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Isolates.** We studied 10 pairs of molecularly identified *C. glabrata* isolates (26) involving parental echinocandin-susceptible isolates causing candidemia and isogenic echinocandin-resistant ones either generated *in vitro* ( $n = 8$ ) (27, 28) or recovered from the heart valves of patients with concomitant endocarditis ( $n = 2$ ). Microsatellite markers showed that the parental and isogenic isolates had the same genotype (29). The characteristics of the isolates are shown in Table 3.

**Inocula used to spike blood culture bottles.** McFarland 0.5 suspensions (corresponding to  $1 \times 10^6$  to  $5 \times 10^6$  CFU/ml) of each pair of susceptible and resistant isolates were prepared. The suspensions were diluted to  $1 \times 10^3$  to  $5 \times 10^3$ ,  $1 \times 10^2$  to  $5 \times 10^2$ , and 10 to 50 CFU/ml. Finally, different proportions of susceptible/resistant isolates (9/1, 5/5, and 1/9) for each pair of each of the three tested inocula were prepared. The concentrations of the inocula and the proportions were confirmed through colony counting on Sabouraud dextrose agar plates (data not shown). Cultures from bottles previously inoculated with blood from patients that remained negative after 7 days of incubation were subsequently used for the experiments. The bottles were reincubated at 35°C under continuous agitation in a Bactec FX system until they were flagged as positive (range, 23.5 h to 65.5 h). One milliliter of each suspension was spiked in nonfungemic/bacteremic Bactec bottles (Bactec Plus Aerobic/F; Becton, Dickinson, Cockeysville, MD, USA) (9 bottles per pair) (see Fig. S1 in the supplemental material).

**Antifungal susceptibility testing and screening for resistance.** Antifungal susceptibility was determined following the EUCAST standard procedure and procedures performed directly on blood cultures ( $ET_{DIR}$  and resistance screening on anidulafungin-containing agar plates).

Five to 6 drops of the broth medium from the bottles flagged as positive were stroked onto Sabouraud dextrose agar plates, and the plates were incubated at 35°C for 24 h. A loopful of the slime growth was collected and suspended in water to examine susceptibility to micafungin and anidulafungin per the EUCAST EDef 7.3.1 method (21). Isolates were considered resistant to micafungin or anidulafungin when the MICs were above 0.032 mg/liter and 0.064 mg/liter, respectively. Additionally, to assess the proportion of echinocandin-susceptible and echinocandin-resistant colonies in each of the 9 bottles, the following volumes were stroked onto Sabouraud plates in triplicate, depending on the spiked inoculum: 10  $\mu$ l (a 1:10 dilution of the  $1 \times 10^3$ - to  $5 \times 10^3$ -CFU/ml inoculum was prepared to obtain single colonies), 10  $\mu$ l ( $1 \times 10^2$  to  $5 \times 10^2$  CFU/ml), and 100  $\mu$ l (10 to 50 CFU/ml). The plates were then incubated at 35°C

for 48 h. We performed the EUCAST EDef 7.3.1 antifungal susceptibility test on single colonies (up to 10 colonies per bottle) for determination of susceptibility to micafungin and anidulafungin (21).

Five to 6 drops of the broth medium were stroked onto RPMI 1640 agar plates, and after placing the Etest strips for anidulafungin and micafungin, the plates were incubated at 35°C for 24 h ( $ET_{DIR}$ ). Isolates were classified as echinocandin resistant per the  $ET_{DIR}$  MICs using the same clinical breakpoints of the EUCAST microdilution method (30). Five or 6 drops of the broth medium were stroked on Sabouraud agar plates containing 2 mg/liter of anidulafungin that were incubated at 35°C for 24 h. In the absence of growth at 24 h, the plates were incubated at 35°C for 48 h. Isolates growing on anidulafungin-containing agar plates were considered echinocandin resistant, as reported elsewhere (16).

**Statistical analysis.** We calculated the total number of pooled resistant colonies from the bottles spiked with a given inoculum and compared the proportions of resistant colonies found in the three groups of bottles spiked with the different inocula ( $10^3$ ,  $10^2$ , and  $10$  CFU/ml). The comparison of proportions was done using a standard binomial method (95% confidence interval) (Epidat [version 3.1] software; Servicio de Información sobre Saúde Pública de la Dirección Xeral de Saúde Pública de la Consellería de Sanidade, Xunta de Galicia, Spain).

**Ethical considerations.** This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Hospital Gregorio Marañón (CEIC-A1; study no. 208/16).

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material for this article may be found at <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.02004-18>.

**SUPPLEMENTAL FILE 1**, PDF file, 0.2 MB.

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We have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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