Epidemiological Trends of Candidemia and the Impact of Adherence to the Candidemia Guideline: Six-Year Single-Center Experience

Jong Hun Kim 1,2,*,†, Jin Woong Suh 1,† and Min Ja Kim 1

1 Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul 02841, Korea; sunthes@naver.com (J.W.S.); macropha@korea.ac.kr (M.J.K.)
2 CHA Bundang Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, CHA University, Seongnam 13496, Korea
* Correspondence: smonti1976@hotmail.com; Tel.: +82-3-1780-5029
† These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract: This study aimed to investigate the epidemiology of candidemia and evaluate the impact of adherence to the candidemia guideline defined by the European Confederation of Medical Mycology Quality of Clinical Candidemia Management (EQUAL) Candida score. Adult candidemia patients ≥ 19 years diagnosed at a tertiary care hospital in the Republic of Korea from 2013 to 2018 were enrolled (period 1 2013–2015, period 2 2016–2018). There was a total of 223 patients. The annual incidence of candidemia increased from 0.43 to 1.33 cases per 1000 admissions between 2013 and 2018, \( p < 0.001 \). A significant increase of fluconazole-resistant \( C. parapsilosis \) candidemia was noted in period 2 (35.3%) when compared to period 1 (0.0%), \( p = 0.020 \). The 30-day mortality rate was not different between period 1 and 2 (43.5% vs. 48.1%, \( p = 0.527 \)). Multivariate analysis revealed that a Charlson comorbidity index score ≥ 4, neutropenia, duration of hospital stay ≥ 21 days before candidemia diagnosis, septic shock, mycological failure, and EQUAL Candida score < 15 were significantly associated with 30-day mortality. An increase in the incidence of candidemia and fluconazole resistance in the non-\( albicans \) Candida species over time was observed. Disease severity, comorbidities, and lower adherence to the candidemia guideline were associated with mortality.

Keywords: candidemia; epidemiology; EQUAL Candida score; mortality

1. Introduction

\( Candida \) species may cause invasive disease, and the most common form of invasive candidiasis is candidemia [1]. The incidence of candidemia in the hospital setting has increased over recent decades [2] and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality [3]. Although \( C. albicans \) continues to be the most frequent pathogen, candidemia caused by non-\( albicans \) Candida is increasing globally, including the Asia-Pacific region [4,5]. In the Republic of Korea (ROK), an increase of non-\( albicans \) Candida candidemia has been reported recently [6,7]. Also, there has been an increase in the aging population with comorbidities in the ROK [8], suggesting there may be higher incidence rates of candidemia among adult patients in the hospital setting in the ROK. Moreover, resistance to antifungal agents is an emerging problem associated with an increasing use of antifungal agents [9]. In the ROK, fluconazole or amphotericin B was mainly used for the treatment of candidemia until the approval of echinocandins as primary treatment for severe candidiasis by the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) in 2014. Following the approval of echinocandin use by the NHIS, the use of echinocandins for candidemia treatment has increased in the ROK [10]. Furthermore, the current candidemia guideline by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) published in 2016 [1] recommends an echinocandin as the primary initial antifungal agent for candidemia treatment. Proper management of
candidemia is critical, and adherence to the guideline may improve outcomes as a recent study showed that greater guideline adherence was associated with survival of candidemia patients [11]. However, there have been few data regarding epidemiological trends of candidemia and the impact of adherence to the candidemia guideline in the ROK after approval of echinocandin use by the NHIS and publication of the guideline. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the epidemiology, clinical characteristics, adherence to the guideline, and outcomes of candidemia among hospitalized adult patients in the ROK in recent years 2013–2018.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Design and Population

A retrospective study of adult patients admitted at a tertiary care hospital (Korea University Anam Hospital, Seoul, Korea) from 2013 to 2018 was conducted. Inclusion criteria were: (1) adult patients ≥ 19 years old; (2) patients diagnosed with candidemia. Exclusion criteria were: (1) patients without candidemia; (2) patients < 19 years old. Patients’ demographics and clinical data, including underlying comorbidities, clinical conditions at the time of candidemia diagnosis, candidemia management, and outcomes, were collected for period 1 (2013–2015) and period 2 (2016–2018). This study was approved by the institutional review board at the Korea University Anam Hospital (IRB Number 2018AN0440). Informed consent was not required due to the retrospective design of the study.

2.2. Definition

A case of candidemia was defined as at least one positive peripheral blood culture for the growth of Candida species obtained from an adult hospitalized patient ≥ 19 years old. Antifungal treatment was initiated if Candida species were identified from the blood culture at the discretion of treating physicians. Follow-up blood cultures after initiation of antifungal treatment were performed every day or every other day until candidemia was cleared from the blood culture. Identification and antifungal susceptibility of Candida spp. from blood culture were performed using the BacT/ALERT® 3D Microbial Detection System (bioMérieux, Inc., Durham, NC, USA) and the automated Vitek® 2 Yeast Biochemical Card (bioMérieux, Inc., Durham, NC, USA). Antifungal susceptibility testing results were interpreted according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) breakpoints as recommended in the guideline [1]. The Charlson comorbidity index was calculated to assess the impact of comorbidities. For each patient, clinical conditions were collected as follows: mechanical ventilation, urinary catheter, central venous catheter, parenteral nutrition, hemodialysis, steroid use, neutropenia, chemotherapy, duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis, recent surgery in the current admission, previous admission to intensive care units (ICUs) within three months, previous use of antibiotic within a month, source of candidemia, antifungal treatment, length of hospital stay after diagnosis of candidemia. Clinical conditions were defined as follows: (1) neutropenia as an absolute neutrophil count of <500 cells/mm³; (2) steroid use as systemic steroid (≥20 mg/day of prednisone equivalent) use; (3) chemotherapy as use of antimetabolites; (4) septic shock as adapted from the third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3) [12].

Adherence to the candidemia guideline [1] was measured by calculation of The European Confederation of Medical Mycology Quality of Clinical Candidemia Management score (EQUAL Candida score) [13]. The source of candidemia was classified based on clinical evidence of infection using the definition from a previous study [14]. Outcomes of candidemia were assessed in the followings: (1) mycological response defined as eradication of candidemia resulted in negative blood culture (mycological failure defined as a failure to eradicate candidemia); (2) 30-day mortality defined as death within 30 days after the first positive blood culture for candidemia.
2.3. Statistical Analysis

The incidence of candidemia was measured as the number of candidemia cases per 1000 hospital admissions. A Poisson regression was used for trend analysis of the annual incidence of candidemia. Categorical variables were analyzed by the Pearson’s Chi-square test of Fisher’s exact test. The Mann–Whitney test was used for continuous variables. Variables with a p-value < 0.1 on comparison analysis were included in a multiple logistic regression analysis to determine risk factors associated with 30-day mortality. The Kaplan–Meier curve was used for survival analysis between candidemia patients with EQUAL Candida score ≥ 15 and EQUAL Candida score < 15. A p value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. SPSS v.23.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used for statistical analyses.

3. Results

3.1. Patient Population and Clinical Characteristics Stratified by Study Periods

During the study period, there were 223 adult patients diagnosed with candidemia who were enrolled in the study after the application of the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The median age of these 223 patients was 71 years with an interquartile range (IQR) of 60–79 years. There were 127 males (57.0%). The incidence of candidemia significantly increased throughout the study period (0.43 cases per 1000 admissions for 2013, 0.49 cases per 1000 admissions for 2014, 0.64 cases per 1000 admissions for 2015, 0.80 cases per 1000 admissions for 2016, 1.01 cases per 1000 admissions for 2017, and 1.33 cases per 1000 admissions) with the annual incidence rate ratio of 1.267 (95% confidence interval (CI) 1.167–1.376, p < 0.001). These are shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Incidence of candidemia 2013–2018 (Figure modified from Kim et al. J Mycol Med. 2020 Dec 1;31(1):101102, with permission of Elsevier. This article was published in Journal de Mycologie Médicale, Volume 31, Issue 1, Kim et al., Prevalence and risk factors for endogenous fungal endophthalmitis in adult patients with candidemia at a tertiary care hospital in the Republic of Korea over 13 years, Copyright Elsevier (2021)).](image-url)

The patients were categorized into two groups (candidemia diagnosed in period 1 (2013–2015) and period 2 (2016–2018)). There were more older patients with age ≥ 75 years in period 2 than in period 1 (43.5% vs. 26.1%, p = 0.013). Regarding underlying comorbidities, there was no significant difference between the two groups. These underlying comorbidities were Charlson comorbidity index, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, liver disease, diabetes mellitus, neurological disease, and malignancy. However, there were more patients with mechanical ventilation (34.4% vs. 18.8%, p = 0.019), urinary tract catheterization (81.2% vs. 59.4%, p = 0.001), parenteral nutrition (95.5% vs. 87.0%, p =
0.045), and longer duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis (median 21 days vs. 13 days, \( p = 0.046 \)) in the period 2 than in the period 1. Also, there was a non-significant trend of more patients with the previous admission to the ICUs within three months in period 2. Clinical conditions of steroid use (58.0% vs. 37.7%, \( p = 0.005 \)), neutropenia (14.5% vs. 5.8%, \( p = 0.032 \)), and recent surgery in the current admission (46.4% vs. 18.8%, \( p < 0.001 \)) were more frequently observed in the period 1 than in the period 2. Regarding the source of candidemia, the most common source was the central venous catheter both in period 1 and period 2 without a difference. However, urinary tract related candidemia was more common (7.8% vs. 0.0%, \( p = 0.020 \)) in period 2 while others or unknown source related candidemia was more common in period 1 (40.6% vs. 15.6%, \( p < 0.001 \)). Although the duration of antifungal treatment was similar, the use of antifungal treatment was significantly different between period 1 and period 2. Fluconazole was more frequently used in period 1 (55.8% vs. 23.8%, \( p < 0.001 \)) while there was more use of echinocandins in period 2 (75.4% vs. 34.6%, \( p < 0.001 \)). There were higher EQUAL Candida scores in period 2 for overall patients as well as patients with and without the central venous catheter. Regarding 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia, there was no significant difference between period 1 and period 2 (43.5% vs. 48.1%, \( p = 0.527 \)) (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the candidemia patients stratified by study period 1 (2013–2015) and period 2 (2016–2018).

|                      | Total        | Period 1     | Period 2     | \( p \)-Value |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|                      | N = 223 (%)  | (2013–2015)  | (2016–2018)  |               |
|                      | N = 69, (%)  | N = 154, (%) |              |               |
| Age, median (IQR)    | 71 (60–79)   | 67 (57–76)   | 72 (64–80)   | 0.027         |
| Age ≥ 75 years       | 85 (38.1)    | 18 (26.1)    | 67 (43.5)    | 0.013         |
| Male                 | 127 (57.0)   | 46 (66.7)    | 81 (52.6)    | 0.05          |
| Female               | 96 (43.0)    | 23 (33.3)    | 73 (47.4)    |               |
| Charlson comorbidity index, median (IQR) | 3 (1–6) | 3 (2–6) | 3 (1–6) | 0.97 |
| Diabetes mellitus    | 83 (37.2)    | 24 (34.8)    | 59 (38.3)    | 0.614         |
| Malignancy           | 113 (50.7)   | 39 (56.5)    | 74 (48.1)    | 0.242         |
| Chronic central nervous system disease | 64 (28.7) | 16 (23.2) | 48 (31.2) | 0.223 |
| Chronic kidney disease | 72 (32.3) | 19 (27.5) | 53 (34.4) | 0.31 |
| Chronic liver disease | 28 (12.6) | 11 (15.9) | 17 (11.0) | 0.307 |
| Chronic pulmonary disease | 30 (13.5) | 9 (13.0) | 21 (13.6) | 0.905 |
| Chronic heart disease | 103 (46.2) | 36 (52.2) | 67 (43.5) | 0.23 |
| Mechanical ventilation | 66 (29.6) | 13 (18.8) | 53 (34.4) | 0.019 |
| Urinary catheter     | 166 (74.4)   | 41 (59.4)    | 125 (81.2)   | 0.001         |
| Central venous catheter | 160 (71.7) | 47 (68.1) | 113 (73.4) | 0.42 |
| Parenteral nutrition | 207 (92.8)   | 60 (87.0)    | 147 (95.5)   | 0.045         |
| Hemodialysis         | 46 (20.6)    | 11 (15.9)    | 35 (22.7)    | 0.247         |
| Steroid use          | 98 (43.9)    | 40 (58.0)    | 58 (37.7)    | 0.005         |
| Neutropenia          | 19 (8.5)     | 10 (14.5)    | 9 (5.8)      | 0.032         |
| Chemotherapy         | 60 (26.9)    | 18 (26.1)    | 42 (27.3)    | 0.854         |
Table 1. Cont.

|                                                | Total (N = 223, %) | Period 1 (2013–2015) | Period 2 (2016–2018) | p-Value |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis median days, (IQR) | 20 (8–41)         | 13 (6–33)            | 21 (9–45)            | 0.046   |
| Recent surgery in the current admission       | 61 (27.4)         | 32 (46.4)            | 29 (18.8)            | <0.001  |
| Previous admission to intensive care unit within 3 months | 84 (37.7)         | 21 (30.4)            | 63 (40.9)            | 0.136   |
| Previous use of antibiotics within 1 month    | 200 (89.7)        | 64 (92.8)            | 136 (88.3)           | 0.313   |
| Source of candidemia                          |                   |                      |                      |         |
| Gastrointestinal tract                        | 26 (11.7)         | 6 (8.7)              | 20 (13.0)            | 0.356   |
| Central venous catheter                       | 130 (58.3)        | 35 (50.7)            | 95 (61.7)            | 0.125   |
| Urinary tract                                 | 12 (5.4)          | 0 (0.0)              | 12 (7.8)             | 0.02    |
| Abscess                                       | 3 (1.3)           | 0 (0.0)              | 3 (1.9)              | 0.554   |
| Others or unknown                             | 52 (23.3)         | 28 (40.6)            | 24 (15.6)            | <0.001  |
| Antifungal treatment                          |                   |                      |                      |         |
| No antifungal treatment                       | 41 (18.4)         | 17 (24.6)            | 24 (15.6)            | 0.107   |
| Antifungal treatment                          | 182 (81.6)        | 52 (75.4)            | 130 (84.4)           |         |
| Fluconazole                                   | 60/182 (33.0)     | 29/52 (55.8)         | 31/130 (23.8)        | <0.001  |
| Voriconazole                                   | 1/182 (0.5)       | 1/52 (1.9)           | 0/130 (0.0)          | 0.286   |
| Amphotericin B                                | 5/182 (2.7)       | 4/52 (7.7)           | 1/130 (0.8)          | 0.024   |
| Echinocandins 2                               | 116/182 (63.7)    | 18/52 (34.6)         | 98/130 (75.4)        | <0.001  |
| Antifungal treatment duration, median days (IQR) | 13 (5–16)         | 11 (6–16)            | 13 (5–16)            | 0.885   |
| Length of hospital stay after diagnosis of candidemia, median days (IQR) | 19 (7–34)         | 13 (6–33)            | 19 (7–35)            | 0.734   |
| EQUAL Candida score                           |                   |                      |                      |         |
| For overall patients, median (IQR)            | 15 (14–17)        | 14 (12–17)           | 16 (14–18)           | <0.001  |
| For patients with central venous catheter 4 (IQR) | 17 (14–18)        | 15 (14–17)           | 17 (14–18)           | 0.001   |
| For patients without central venous catheter 5 (IQR) | 14 (12–15)        | 12 (11–14)           | 14 (12–15)           | 0.04    |
| Mortality day 30 after diagnosis of candidemia | 104 (46.6)        | 30 (43.5)            | 74 (48.1)            | 0.527   |

1 IQR, interquartile range. 2 Echinocandins including micafungin, caspofungin, and anidulafungin. 3 EQUAL Candida score, The European Confederation of Medical Mycology Quality of Clinical Candidemia Management score. 4 For patients with central venous catheter, data calculated for 48 patients for period 1 and 113 patients for period 2. 5 For patients without central venous catheter, data calculated for 21 patients for period 1 and 41 patients for period 2.

3.2. Analysis of Risk Factors for Mortality

Overall, the 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia during the study period was 46.6%. Although annual rate of the 30-day mortality was different for each study year (27.5% for 2013, 52.4% for 2014, 46.7% for 2015, 23.1% for 2016, 52.1% for 2017, 59.7% for 2018), the annual 30-day mortality rate ratio did not show statistical significance (1.116, 95% CI 0.983–1.266, p = 0.090). These are shown in Figure 2.
Based on the 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia, patients were categorized into the two groups (survivor and non-survivor). The distribution of age and sex was similar between the two groups. Regarding underlying comorbidities, there was a trend of more patients with a Charlson comorbidity index ≥ 4 in the non-survivor group than in the survivor group (47.1% vs. 35.3%, p = 0.073). Furthermore, non-survivors had significantly more mechanical ventilation (40.4% vs. 20.2%, p = 0.001), central venous catheter (78.8% vs. 65.5%, p = 0.028), hemodialysis (29.8% vs. 12.6%, p = 0.002), steroid use (52.9% vs. 36.1%, p = 0.012), and neutropenia (15.4% vs. 2.5%, p = 0.001) when compared with survivors. Also, non-survivors had a longer duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis (29 days vs. 12 days, p < 0.001) and more previous admission to ICUs within three months (46.2% vs. 30.3%, p = 0.014). Regarding the source of candidemia, central venous catheter-related candidemia was more common in the non-survivor group (65.4% vs. 52.1%, p = 0.045). The distribution of Candida species was significantly different. C. tropicalis (30.8% vs. 16.8%, p = 0.014) and C. guilliermondii (3.8% vs. 0.0%, p = 0.046) were more prevalent in the non-survivor group. In comparison, there were more patients with C. parapsilosis (26.9% vs. 13.5%, p = 0.013) in the survivor group. There was a nonsignificant trend of higher mortality rate in patients with fluconazole resistant C. parapsilosis than in patients with fluconazole susceptible C. parapsilosis (41.7% vs. 26.5%, p = 0.325). The proportion of the patients who received antifungal treatment was significantly higher in the survivor group than in the non-survivor group (90.8% vs. 71.2%, p < 0.001). Among the patients who were treated, fluconazole was more frequently used in the survivor group (40.7% vs. 21.6%, p = 0.007) while echinocandins were more often employed in the non-survivor group (75.7% vs. 50.4%, p = 0.006). In addition, among 182 patients who were treated with the antifungal agent, the proportion of septic shock was non-significantly higher in the patients treated with echinocandins than those treated with non-echinocandins (42.2% vs. 28.8%, p = 0.071). Furthermore, there were significantly more patients with septic shock (60.6% vs. 19.3%, p < 0.001) and mycological failure (72.1% vs. 8.5%, p < 0.001) in the non-survivor group. The EQUAL Candida scores were lower in the non-survivor group with a higher proportion of patients with EQUAL Candida score < 15 for overall patients (52.9% vs. 37.0%, p = 0.017) and patients with the central venous catheter (44.6% vs. 26.9%, p = 0.020) as well as with EQUAL Candida score < 12 for patients without central venous catheter (38.1% vs. 14.6%, p = 0.045) (Table 2). The main differences regarding variables of the EQUAL Candida score between the survivor group and non-survivor group who had a central venous catheter were ophthalmology examination (survivor group, 62.7% vs. non-survivor group, 32.7%, p < 0.001), antifungal treatment for 14 days after first negative
blood culture (survivor group, 45.8% vs. non-survivor group, 11.9%, \( p < 0.001 \)), and central venous catheter removal ≤ 24 h from diagnosis of candidemia (survivor group, 79.7% vs. non-survivor group, 56.4%, \( p = 0.003 \)). For patients who did not have a central venous catheter, the main differences regarding variables of the EQUAL Candida score between the survivor group and non-survivor group were ophthalmology Candida score (survivor group, 78.9% vs. non-survivor group, 44.0%, \( p = 0.004 \)), and antifungal treatment for 14 days after first negative blood culture (survivor group, 36.8% vs. non-survivor group, 16.0%, \( p = 0.073 \)).

Table 2. Comparison analysis of the candidemia patients for risk factors for 30-day mortality.

| Total N = 223 (%) | Survivor N = 119, (%) | Non-Survivor N = 104, (%) | p-Value |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Age, median (IQR) | 71 (60–79)           | 71 (60–79)               | 72 (59–79) | 0.725 |
| Age ≥ 75 years    | 85 (38.1)            | 46 (38.7)                | 39 (37.5) | 0.859 |
| Male              | 127 (57.0)           | 68 (57.1)                | 59 (56.7) | 0.951 |
| Female            | 96 (43.0)            | 51 (42.9)                | 45 (43.3) |       |
| Charlson comorbidity index, median (IQR) | 3 (1–6) | 3 (1–5) | 3 (1–6) | 0.078 |
| Charlson comorbidity index ≥ 4 | 91 (40.8) | 42 (35.3) | 49 (47.1) | 0.073 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 83 (37.2)            | 45 (37.8)                | 38 (36.5) | 0.844 |
| Malignancy        | 113 (50.7)           | 55 (46.2)                | 58 (55.8) | 0.155 |
| Chronic central nervous system disease | 64 (28.7) | 36 (30.3) | 28 (26.9) | 0.584 |
| Chronic kidney disease | 72 (32.3) | 34 (28.6) | 38 (36.5) | 0.204 |
| Chronic liver disease | 28 (12.6) | 12 (10.1) | 16 (15.4) | 0.233 |
| Chronic pulmonary disease | 30 (13.5) | 15 (12.6) | 15 (14.4) | 0.691 |
| Chronic heart disease | 103 (46.2) | 59 (49.6) | 44 (42.3) | 0.277 |
| Mechanical ventilation | 66 (29.6) | 24 (20.2) | 42 (40.4) | 0.001 |
| Urinary catheter  | 166 (74.4)           | 83 (69.7)                | 83 (79.8) | 0.086 |
| Central venous catheter | 160 (71.7) | 78 (65.5) | 82 (78.8) | 0.028 |
| Parenteral nutrition | 207 (92.8) | 108 (90.8) | 99 (95.2) | 0.200 |
| Hemodialysis      | 46 (20.6)            | 15 (12.6)                | 31 (29.8) | 0.002 |
| Steroid use       | 98 (43.9)            | 43 (36.1)                | 55 (52.9) | 0.012 |
| Neutropenia       | 19 (8.5)             | 3 (2.5)                  | 16 (15.4) | 0.001 |
| Chemotherapy      | 60 (26.9)            | 26 (21.8)                | 34 (32.7) | 0.069 |
| Duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis median days, (IQR) | 20 (8–41) | 12 (5–28) | 29 (15–49) | <0.001 |
| Duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis ≥ 21 days | 111 (49.8) | 44 (37.0) | 67 (64.4) | <0.001 |
| Recent surgery in the current admission | 61 (27.4) | 36 (30.3) | 25 (24.0) | 0.299 |
| Previous admission to intensive care unit within 3 months | 84 (37.7) | 36 (30.3) | 48 (46.2) | 0.014 |
| Previous use of antibiotics within 1 month | 200 (89.7) | 106 (89.1) | 94 (90.4) | 0.748 |
| Source of candidemia | Gastrointestinal tract | 26 (11.7) | 15 (12.6) | 11 (10.6) | 0.638 |
Furthermore, the Kaplan–Meier curves with the log-rank test revealed that there was a significant difference in terms of 30-day survival after diagnosis of candidemia between patients with an EQUAL Candida score $\geq 15$ (60.5%) and patients with an EQUAL Candida score $< 15$ (44.4%), $p = 0.003$ (Figure 3).

The multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed, which showed that a Charlson comorbidity index $\geq 4$ (odds ratio [OR] 3.302, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.276–8.546, $p = 0.014$), neutropenia (OR 7.855, 95% CI 1.669–36.963, $p = 0.009$), duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis $\geq 21$ days (OR 2.475, 95% CI 1.067–5.746, $p = 0.035$), septic shock (OR 4.242, 95% CI 1.710–10.524, $p = 0.002$), mycological failure (OR 29.519, 95% CI 11.175–77.970, $p < 0.001$), and EQUAL Candida score $< 15$ (OR 3.501, 95% CI 1.380–8.881, $p = 0.008$) were significantly associated with the 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia. In addition, mechanical ventilation (OR 3.028, 95% CI 0.999–9.177, $p = 0.050$) and previous admission to ICU within three months (OR 2.726, 95% CI 0.999–7.437, $p = 0.050$) showed a borderline significance (Table 3).

### Table 2. Cont.

|                         | Total  | Survivor | Non-Survivor | $p$-Value |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|--------------|-----------|
|                         | $N = 223$ (%) | $N = 119$ (%) | $N = 104$ (%) |           |
| **Central venous catheter** | 130 (58.3) | 62 (52.1) | 68 (65.4) | 0.045     |
| **Urinary tract**       | 12 (5.4)  | 7 (5.9)  | 5 (4.8)   | 0.723     |
| **Abscess**             | 3 (1.3)   | 2 (1.7)  | 1 (1.0)   | 1.000     |
| **Others or unknown**   | 52 (23.3) | 33 (27.7) | 19 (18.3) | 0.096     |
| **Candida species of candidemia** |         |          |            |           |
| *C. albicans*           | 93 (41.7) | 49 (41.2) | 44 (42.3) | 0.864     |
| *C. parapsilosis*       | 46 (20.6) | 32 (26.9) | 14 (13.5) | 0.013     |
| *C. tropicalis*         | 52 (23.3) | 20 (16.8) | 32 (30.8) | 0.014     |
| *C. glabrata*           | 21 (9.4)  | 14 (11.8) | 7 (6.7)   | 0.199     |
| *C. krusei*             | 2 (0.9)   | 2 (1.7)  | 0 (0.0)   | 0.500     |
| *C. guilliermondii*     | 4 (1.8)   | 0 (0.0)  | 4 (3.8)   | 0.046     |
| *C. utilis*             | 2 (0.9)   | 2 (1.7)  | 0 (0.0)   | 0.500     |
| **Other Candida species** | 3 (1.3)  | 0 (0.0)  | 3 (2.9)   | 1.000     |
| **Antifungal treatment** |         |          |            |           |
| No antifungal treatment | 41 (18.4) | 11 (9.2) | 30 (28.8) | $<0.001$  |
| *Fluconazole*           | 182 (81.6) | 108 (90.8) | 74 (71.2) |           |
| Voriconazole            | 60/182 (33.0) | 44/108 (40.7) | 16/74 (21.6) | 0.007     |
| *Amphotericin B*        | 1/182 (0.5) | 1/108 (0.8) | 0/74 (0.0) | 1.000     |
| *Echinocandins*         | 5/182 (2.7) | 3/108 (2.8) | 2/74 (2.7) | 1.000     |
| **Echidocandins**       | 116/182 (63.7) | 60/108 (50.4) | 56/74 (75.7) | 0.006     |
| **Septic shock**        | 86 (38.6) | 23 (19.3) | 63 (60.6) | $<0.001$  |
| **Mycological failure** | 85 (38.5) | 10 (8.5) | 75 (72.1) | $<0.001$  |
| **EQUAL Candida score** |         |          |            |           |
| For all patients, median (IQR) | 15 (14–17) | 15 (14–18) | 14 (14–17) | 0.222     |
| For patients with central venous catheter | 17 (14–18) | 17 (14–18) | 16 (14–17) | 0.052     |
| For patients without central venous catheter | 58 (36.0) | 21 (26.9) | 37 (44.6) | 0.020     |
| For patients without central venous catheter (IQR) | 14 (12–15) | 14 (12–15) | 14 (11–14) | 0.074     |
| **EQUAL score < 12 for patients without central venous catheter** | 14 (22.6) | 6 (14.6) | 8 (38.1) | 0.054     |

1 IQR, interquartile range. 2 Other *candida* species including *C. sphaericus, C. haemulonii,* and *C. lusitaniae.* 3 Echinocandins including micafungin, caspofungin, and anidulafungin. 4 EQUAL Candida score, The European Confederation of Medical Mycology Quality of Clinical Candidemia Management score. 5 For patients with central venous catheter, data calculated for 78 patients for the survivor group and 83 patients for the non-survivor group. 6 For patients without central venous catheter, data calculated for 41 patients for the survivor group and 21 patients for the non-survivor group.
J. Fungi 2021, 7, 275

Figure 3. Kaplan–Meier survival curve stratified by the EQUAL Candida score \(^1\) (\(^1\) EQUAL Candida score, The European Confederation of Medical Mycology Quality of Clinical Candidemia Management score).

Table 3. Factors associated with the 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia.

| Factor                                                   | Odds Ratio | 95% Confidence Interval | \(p\)-Value |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Charlson comorbidity index ≥ 4                          | 3.302      | 1.276–8.546             | 0.014       |
| Neutropenia                                              | 7.855      | 1.669–36.963            | 0.009       |
| Duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis ≥ 21 days | 2.475      | 1.067–5.746             | 0.035       |
| Septic shock                                             | 4.242      | 1.710–10.524            | 0.002       |
| Mycological failure                                      | 29.519     | 11.175–77.970           | <0.001      |
| EQUAL Candida score \(^1\) < 15                         | 3.501      | 1.380–8.881             | 0.008       |
| Mechanical ventilation                                   | 3.028      | 0.999–9.177             | 0.050       |

\(^1\) EQUAL Candida score, The European Confederation of Medical Mycology Quality of Clinical Candidemia Management score.

3.3. Candidemia and Candida Species with Resistance Patterns

The most frequently isolated Candida species was \(C.\) \(albicans\) (41.7\%), followed by \(C.\) \(tropicalis\) (23.3\%), \(C.\) \(parapsilosis\) (20.6\%), and \(C.\) \(lastera\) (9.4\%) for overall patients. Between period 1 and period 2, the proportion of non-\(albicans\) \(Candida\) was not significantly different (period 1: 60.9\% vs. period 2: 57.1\%, \(p = 602\)). However, there was a decrease in the proportion of \(C.\) \(lastera\) in period 2 (5.8\% vs. 17.4\%, \(p = 0.006\)) while non-significant trends of an increase in the proportion of \(C.\) \(parapsilosis\) and \(C.\) \(tropicalis\) were observed in period 2. Although there were no reported cases of fluconazole resistance in period 1, the emergence of fluconazole resistance was noted in period 2 among \(C.\) \(albicans\), \(C.\) \(tropicalis\), \(C.\) \(parapsilosis\), and \(C.\) \(lastera\) isolates. Notably, there was a significant increase in fluconazole resistance among \(C.\) \(parapsilosis\) isolates in period 2 than in period 1 (35.3\% vs. 0.0\%, \(p = 0.020\)). These are shown in Table 4. There were no cases of caspofungin resistance among isolated Candida
species. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) 50 and MIC 90 values of the Candida species are shown in Supplementary Table S1.

Table 4. Candida species of candidemia with fluconazole susceptibility stratified by study period 1 (2013–2015) and period 2 (2016–2018).

| Species      | Total N = 223 (%) | Period 1 (2013–2015) N = 69 (%) | Period 2 (2016–2018) N = 154 (%) | p-Value |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| C. albicans  | 93 (41.7)        | 27 (39.1)                     | 66 (42.9)                     | 0.602   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 87/93 (93.5) | 27/27 (100.0)                  | 6/60 (90.9)                   | 0.176   |
| C. parapsilosis | 46 (20.6) | 12 (17.4)                     | 34 (22.1)                     | 0.424   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 34/46 (73.9) | 12/12 (100.0)                  | 22/34 (64.7)                  | 0.020   |
| C. tropicalis | 52 (23.3)        | 15 (21.7)                     | 37 (24.0)                     | 0.709   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 51/52 (98.1) | 15/15 (100.0)                  | 36/37 (97.3)                  | 1.000   |
| C. glabrata   | 21 (9.4)         | 12 (17.4)                     | 9 (5.8)                       | 0.006   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 19/20 (95.0) | 11/11 (100.0)                  | 8/9 (88.9)                    | 0.450   |
| C. krusei     | 2 (0.9)          | 0 (0.0)                       | 2 (1.3)                       | 1.000   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 0/2 (0.0) | NA 2                          | 0/2 (0.0)                     | NA      |
| C. guilliermondii | 4 (1.8) | 1 (1.4)                       | 3 (1.9)                       | 1.000   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 4/4 (100.0) | 1/1 (100.0)                   | 3/3 (100.0)                   | NA      |
| C. utilis     | 2 (0.9)          | 0 (0.0)                       | 2 (1.3)                       | 1.000   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 2/2 (100.0) | NA 2                          | 2/2 (100.0)                   | NA      |
| Other Candida species | 3 (1.3) | 2 (2.9)                       | 1 (0.6)                       | 0.227   |
| Fluconazole susceptibility | 2/2 (100.0) | 1/1 (100.0)                   | 1/1 (100.0)                   | NA      |

1 Fluconazole susceptibility of C. glabrata available for 11 cases in period 1 and 9 cases in period 2; 2 NA, not available; 3 Other candida species including C. sphaerica and C. haemulonii in period 1 and C. lustianiae in period 2; 4 Fluconazole susceptibility available for 1 case in period 1 (C. haemulonii) and 1 case (C. lustianiae) in period 2.

4. Discussion

A significant increase in the incidence of candidemia over the study periods was observed in our study, which is consistent with a previous study [15] conducted in the ROK. Several studies identified risk factors for patients with candidemia in hospitals, which include older age, comorbidities, and medical conditions such as recent surgery, central venous catheter placement, indwelling urinary catheter use, parenteral nutrition, neutropenia, use of antibiotics, prolonged hospital stay, and mechanical ventilation [16–19]. In the present study, there were significantly more patients with older age, a longer duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis, mechanical ventilation, parenteral nutrition, and urinary tract catheterization in period 2 than in period 1. Since these factors are considered to be risk factors for candidemia from previous studies [16–19], our findings suggest that an increased number of older debilitated patients with more severe illness in period 2 might contribute to an increased incidence of candidemia. As the patient population with aging and predisposing risk factors is expected to be increasing, the incidence of candidemia might also be predicted to rise. Thus, continued surveillance needs to be considered for an accurate estimate of the incidence of candidemia. Of note, there were more patients with others or unknown sources of candidemia in period 1 while there were more patients with urinary tract source of candidemia in period 2. This difference in terms of the source of candidemia between the study periods may be secondary to the patients’ clinical conditions and their possible underlying pathophysiology. The stress response caused by surgery may induce impaired wound healing and immune function, and possible translocation from the gut [20,21]. Moreover, candiduria is common among patients with a urinary tract catheter, and the majority of candiduria may represent contamination or colonization. However, candiduria may lead to candidemia [22]. As there was a higher prevalence of recent surgery, steroid use, and neutropenia in period 1 and
urinary tract catheterization in period 2, this difference in patient characteristics might have had a differential influence on the development of candidemia. Our study showed that the use of antifungal agents for candidemia treatment was significantly different between the study periods, with more frequent use of echinocandins in period 2, which is consistent with a previous study [10] reported in the ROK. These findings reaffirm an increased echinocandin use for candidemia treatment after the approval of echinocandin use by the NHIS and publication of the guideline.

In our study, the 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia was higher than that of a study reported in Japan [23]. As there were more patients with mechanical ventilation and septic shock in our study when compared to a Japanese study [23], the higher rate of 30-day mortality observed in our study might be due to an increased severity of candidemia in the cohort of study patients. Moreover, our comparison analysis showed that non-survivors had more mechanical ventilation, central venous catheter, hemodialysis, mycological failure, and septic shock when compared to survivors, suggesting the potential impact of disease severity on the 30-day mortality. Furthermore, there was more steroid use, neutropenia, longer duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis, previous admission to ICUs within three months, and Charlson comorbidity index ≥ 4 in the non-survivor group than in the survivor group. These results are in agreement with previous studies [23–26] as comorbidities and clinical conditions that may affect immunity have been identified to be risk factors associated with mortality among candidemia patients. Prompt antifungal treatment is a critical component of candidemia management, as delaying antifungal treatment of candidemia has been associated with mortality [27]. Non-survivors who did not receive antifungal treatment had a significantly shorter length of hospital stay after diagnosis of candidemia than non-survivors who received antifungal treatment (median 3 days vs. 9 days, \( p < 0.001 \), data not shown) in our study. Extrapolating from these results and the higher proportion of septic shock in the non-survivors suggests that more severely ill candidemia patients with septic shock might have died before being considered for antifungal treatment in our study. Of note, there was the more frequent use of echinocandins in the non-survivors, which is in contrast to a previous study [28] reporting an association of an echinocandin treatment with decreased mortality. However, the proportion of septic shock was higher in the patients treated with echinocandins than those treated with non-echinocandins. Also, there were more septic shock, comorbidities, and clinical conditions that may affect immunity in the non-survivors, we speculate that these factors might have contributed to an increased risk of mortality in our study, rather than by echinocandins themselves. Furthermore, the multivariate logistic regression analysis revealed that a Charlson comorbidity index ≥ 4, neutropenia, duration of hospital stay before candidemia diagnosis ≥ 21 days, septic shock, and mycological failure were significantly associated with 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia. These results further support the hypothesis mentioned above that septic shock, comorbidities, and clinical conditions that may affect immunity are considered to be significant predictors for mortality. The median EQUAL Candida score was lower in the non-survivors than that of the survivors in our study. Moreover, there was a significant difference in 30-day survival after diagnosis of candidemia between patients with an EQUAL Candida score ≥ 15 and patients with an EQUAL Candida score < 15. Additionally, an EQUAL Candida score < 15 was significantly associated with 30-day mortality after diagnosis of candidemia from the multivariate logistic regression analysis. These results are consistent with a previous study [11], which reported that greater guideline adherence with a higher EQUAL Candida score was associated with survival among patients with candidemia. Therefore, our results suggest that greater guideline adherence may be one of the critical components of candidemia management. Also, suboptimal compliance of the guideline with a lower EQUAL Candida score could be one of the predictors of mortality among candidemia patients.

Among isolated Candida species from candidemia patients, the proportion of non-albicans Candida was not significantly different between period 1 and period 2. These results
were not in agreement with previous studies [6,7] of reporting an increase of non-albicans Candida candidemia recently. The possible reasons for this inconsistent observation may be due to potential differences in the local epidemiology of candidemia and the patient population, as the present study was conducted at a single center in the ROK. Nonetheless, trends of a non-significant increase in the proportion of C. parapsilosis and C. tropicalis were observed in period 2 in our study, which suggests the need for continued candidemia surveillance for the accurate evaluation of local epidemiology of candidemia. Of note, non-survivors had a higher proportion of C. tropicalis when compared to survivors, which is consistent with a previous study [29] reporting poor prognosis of C. tropicalis among non-albicans Candida candidemia. The possible tendency of C. tropicalis for mortality associated with C. tropicalis candidemia might be due to the virulence factors expressed by C. tropicalis species [30]. Regarding the trend of antifungal resistance, there was an increase of fluconazole resistance among isolated Candida species in period 2 when compared to period 1, particularly for C. parapsilosis isolates. These results may indicate a major change in candidemia epidemiology. In line with our results, recent studies [31,32] reported the emergence of fluconazole resistance of C. parapsilosis isolates in intensive care units. Besides, a mutation of the ERG11 gene in fluconazole-resistant C. parapsilosis isolates from candidemia patients was reported from a recent study conducted in the ROK [33]. Of note, the majority (76.7%) of patients with molecular mutation and fluconazole resistance had no antifungal exposure within 30 days prior to candidemia detection [33]. Furthermore, mutation of ERG11 or combined mutation of other genes (e.g., MDR1 gene) has been associated with fluconazole resistance in C. albicans and C. tropicalis isolates [34,35]. Taken together, our results of a higher rate of fluconazole resistance among Candida species in period 2 might have been due to possible clonal transmission of the fluconazole-resistant mutation genes. Subsequently, such clonal transmission of the fluconazole-resistant mutation genes might have led to the nosocomial spread of fluconazole-resistant Candida species.

Our study has some limitations, mainly due to a retrospective single-center study design with a relatively small sample size. Therefore, there might have been risks of potential confounding effects from unmeasured variables on our analyses. For example, we did not measure the rate of urinary catheter removal in candidemia patients diagnosed with urinary tract related candidemia. Also, we did not measure the exact dosing of antifungal agent used for candidemia treatment, which made it difficult to assess the possibility of under dosing of antifungal agent, particularly for fluconazole. Thus, these might have had possible effects on the treatment outcomes. In addition, specific fungal blood culture bottles with a dedicated fungal culture medium which may have higher sensitivity for detecting candidemia [36] was not available at our institution. Thus, the incidence of candidemia might have been underestimated during the study period. Moreover, we did not examine the genetic mutation of isolates of Candida species to test our hypothesis of their possible contribution to the emergence of fluconazole resistance in period 2. Of note, the proportion of C. glabrata was decreased in period 2, and there were no cases of caspofungin resistance among isolates of Candida species in our study. These results contrast to a recent study [37], which showed an increasing trend of C. glabrata with echinocandin resistance. These contradictory findings might be due to potential differences in the clinical setting and patient population. Additionally, the duration of our study periods might not have been long enough to reflect the details of the changing epidemiology of candidemia. Thus, future prospective studies with the inclusion of more centers and more extended study periods may be required for further assessment of the changing epidemiology of candidemia.

5. Conclusions

An increase in the incidence of candidemia and fluconazole resistance of the isolated Candida species was observed during the study periods of recent years 2013–2018. In addition, disease severity, comorbidities, and lower adherence to the candidemia guideline were associated with mortality among hospitalized adult patients. Therefore, our
results highlight the need for continued surveillance of candidemia epidemiology and improvement in the adherence to the candidemia guideline.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/jof7040275/s1, Supplementary Table S1. MIC50 and MIC90 values of the *Candida* species during the study periods.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, J.H.K., J.W.S. and M.J.K.; methodology, J.H.K.; software, J.W.S. and J.H.K.; validation, J.W.S. and J.H.K.; formal analysis, J.W.S. and J.H.K.; investigation, J.W.S. and J.H.K.; data curation, J.W.S., M.J.K. and J.H.K.; writing—original draft preparation, J.H.K. and J.W.S.; writing—review and editing, J.H.K. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Institutional Review Board Statement:** This study was approved by the institutional review board at the Korea University Anam Hospital (IRB Number 2018AN0440).

**Informed Consent Statement:** Informed consent was not required due to the retrospective design of the study.

**Data Availability Statement:** The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**References**

1. Pappas, P.G.; Kauffman, C.A.; Andes, D.R.; Clancy, C.J.; Marr, K.A.; Ostrosky-Zeichner, L.; Reboli, A.C.; Schuster, M.G.; Vazquez, J.A.; Walsh, T.J.; et al. Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Candidiasis: 2016 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clin. Infect. Dis.* 2016, 62, e1–e50. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

2. Horn, D.L.; Neofytos, D.; Anaissie, E.J.; Fishman, J.A.; Steinbach, W.J.; Olyaei, A.J.; Marr, K.A.; Pfaffer, M.A.; Chang, C.H.; Webster, K.M. Epidemiology and outcomes of candidemia in 2019 patients: Data from the prospective antifungal therapy alliance registry. *Clin. Infect. Dis.* 2009, 48, 1695–1703. [CrossRef]

3. Antinori, S.; Milazzo, L.; Sollima, S.; Galli, M.; Corbellino, M. Candidemia and invasive candidiasis in adults: A narrative review. *Eur. J. Intern. Med.* 2016, 34, 21–28. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

4. Guinea, J. Global trends in the distribution of Candida species causing candidemia. *Clin. Microbiol. Infect.* 2014, 20 (Suppl. 6), 5–10. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

5. Morii, D.; Seki, M.; Binongo, J.N.; Ban, R.; Kobayashi, A.; Sata, M.; Hashimoto, S.; Shimizu, J.; Morita, S.; Tomono, K. Distribution of Candida species isolated from blood cultures in hospitals in Osaka, Japan. *J. Infect. Chemother.* 2014, 20, 558–562. [CrossRef]

6. Jung, S.I.; Shin, J.H.; Song, J.H.; Peck, K.R.; Lee, K.; Kim, M.N.; Chang, H.H.; Moon, C.S.; Korean Study Group for Candidemia. Multicenter surveillance of species distribution and antifungal susceptibilities of Candida bloodstream isolates in South Korea. *Med. Mycol.* 2010, 48, 669–674.

7. Yoo, J.I.; Choi, C.W.; Lee, K.M.; Kim, Y.K.; Kim, T.U.; Kim, E.C.; Joo, S.I.; Yun, S.H.; Lee, Y.S.; Kim, B.S. National surveillance of antifungal susceptibility of Candida species in South Korean hospitals. *Med. Mycol.* 2009, 47, 554–558. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

8. Woo, E.K.; Han, C.; Jo, S.A.; Park, M.K.; Kim, S.; Kim, E.; Park, M.H.; Lee, J.; Jo, I. Morbidity and related factors among elderly people in South Korea: Results from the AnsanGeriatric (AGE) cohort study. *BMC Public Health* 2007, 7, 10. [CrossRef]

9. Hsu, L.Y.; Lee, D.G.; Wang, Y.L.; Chen, T.C.; Chang, K.; Lin, S.Y. Usefulness of EQUAL Candida scores for predicting outcomes in patients with candidemia: A retrospective cohort study. *Clin. Microbiol. Infect.* 2020, 26, 1501–1506. [CrossRef]

10. Singer, M.; Deutschman, C.S.; Seymour, C.W.; Shankar-Hari, M.; Annane, D.; Bauer, M.; Bellomo, R.; Bernard, G.R.; Chiche, J.D.; Coopersmith, C.M.; et al. The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3). *JAMA* 2016, 315, 810–818. [CrossRef]

11. Mellinghoff, S.C.; Hoenigl, M.; Koehler, P.; Kumar, A.; Lagrou, K.; Lass-Flørl, C.; Meis, J.F.; Menon, V.; Rautema-Richardson, R.; Cornely, O.A. EQUAL Candida Score: An ECMM score derived from current guidelines to measure QUAlity of Clinical Candidaemia Management. *Mycoses* 2018, 61, 326–330. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
14. Bassetti, M.; Vena, A.; Meroi, M.; Cardozo, C.; Cuervo, G.; Giacobbe, D.R.; Salavert, M.; Merino, P.; Gioia, F.; Fernández-Ruiz, M.; et al. Factors associated with the development of septic shock in patients with candidemia: A post hoc analysis from two prospective cohorts. Crit. Care 2020, 24, 117. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

15. Park, J.S.; Cho, S.H.; Youn, S.K.; Bak, Y.S.; Yu, Y.B.; Kim, Y.K. Epidemiological Characterization of Opportunistic Mycoses between the Years 2006 and 2010 in Korea. J. Microbiol. Biotechnol. 2016, 26, 145–150. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

16. Conde-Rosa, A.; Amador, R.; Pérez-Torres, D.; Colón, E.; Sánchez-Rivera, C.; Nieves-Plaza, M.; González-Ramos, M.; Bertrán-Pasarell, J. Candidemia distribution, associated risk factors, and attributed mortality at a university-based medical center. Puerto Rico Health Sci. J. 2010, 29, 26–29.

17. Li, D.; Xia, R.; Zhang, Q.; Bai, C.; Li, Z.; Zhang, P. Evaluation of candidemia in epidemiology and risk factors among cancer patients in a cancer center of China: An 8-year case-control study. BMC Infect. Dis. 2017, 17, 536. [CrossRef]

18. Karabinis, A.; Hill, C.; Leclercq, B.; Tancrède, C.; Baume, D.; Andremont, A. Risk factors for candidemia in cancer patients: A case-control study. J. Clin. Microbiol. 1988, 26, 429–432. [CrossRef]

19. Ortiz Ruiz, G.; Osorio, J.; Valderrama, S.; Álvarez, D.; Elias Díaz, R.; Calderón, J.; Ballesteros, D.; Franco, A. Risk factors for candidemia in non-neutropenic critical patients in Colombia. Med. Intensiva. 2016, 40, 139–144. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

20. Finnerty, C.C.; Mabvuure, N.T.; Ali, A.; Kozar, R.A.; Herndon, D.N. The surgically induced stress response. J. Surg. Res. 1987, 42, 536–542. [CrossRef]

21. Schroeder, M.; Weber, T.; Denker, T.; Winterland, S.; Wichmann, D.; Rohde, H.; Ozga, A.K.; Fischer, M.; Kluge, S. Epidemiology, clinical characteristics, and outcome of candidemia in critically ill patients in Germany: A single-center retrospective 10-year analysis. Ann. Intensive Care 2020, 10, 142. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

22. Deitch, E.A.; Bridges, R.M. Effect of stress and trauma on bacterial translocation from the gut. J. Surg. Res. 1987, 42, 536–542. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

23. Vaquero-Herrero, M.P.; Ragozzino, S.; Castaño-Romero, F.; Siller-Ruiz, M.; Sánchez-Ruiz, M.; García-García, L.; Marcos, M.; Ternavasio-de la Vega, H.G. The Pitt Bacteremia Score, Charlson Comorbidity Index and Chronic Disease Score are useful tools for the prediction of mortality in patients with Candida bloodstream infection. Mycoses 2017, 60, 676–685. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

24. Andes, D.R.; Safdar, N.; Baddley, J.W.; Playford, G.; Reboli, A.C.; Rex, J.H.; Sobel, J.D.; Pappas, P.G.; Kullberg, B.J. Mycoses Study Group. Impact of treatment strategy on outcomes in patients with candidemia and other forms of invasive candidiasis: A patient-level quantitative review of randomized trials. Clin. Infect. Dis. 2012, 54, 1110–1122. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

25. Ko, J.H.; Jung, D.S.; Lee, J.Y.; Kim, H.A.; Ryu, S.Y.; Jung, S.I.; Joo, E.J.; Cheon, S.; Kim, Y.S.; Kim, S.W.; et al. Poor prognosis of Candida tropicalis among non-albicans candidemia: A retrospective multicenter cohort study. Korea. Diagn. Microbiol. Infect. Dis. 2019, 95, 195–200. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

26. Morrell, M.; Fraser, V.J.; Kollef, M.H. Delaying the empiric treatment of candida bloodstream infection until positive blood culture results are obtained: A potential risk factor for hospital mortality. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 2005, 49, 3640–3645. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

27. Storfer, S.P.; Medoff, G.; Fraser, V.J.; Powderly, W.G.; Dunagan, W.C. Candiduria: Retrospective Review in Hospitalized Patients. Infect. Dis. Clin. Pract. 2013, 21, 23–29. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

28. Ishikane, M.; Hayakawa, K.; Kutsuna, S.; Takeshita, N.; Ohmagari, N. The impact of infectious disease consultation in candidemia in a tertiary care hospital in Japan over 12 years. PLoS ONE 2019, 14, e0215996. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

29. Pinhati, H.M.; Casulari, L.A.; Souza, A.C.; Siqueira, R.A.; Damasceno, C.M.; Colombo, A.L. Outbreak of candidemia caused by fluconazole-resistant Candida parapsilosis in an intensive care unit. BMC Infect. Dis. 2016, 16, 433. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

30. Negri, M.; Silva, S.; Henriques, M.; Oliveira, R. Insights into Candida tropicalisnosocomial infections and virulence factors. Eur. J. Clin. Microbiol. Infect. Dis. 2012, 31, 1399–1412. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

31. Thomaz, D.Y.; de Almeida, J.N., Jr.; Lima, G.M.E.; Nunes, M.O.; Camargo, C.H.; Grenfell, R.C.; Benard, G.; Del Negro, G.M.B. An Azole-Resistant Candida parapsilosis Outbreak: Clonal Persistence in the Intensive Care Unit of a Brazilian Teaching Hospital. Front. Microbiol. 2018, 9, 2997. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

32. Pinhati, H.M.; Casulari, L.A.; Souza, A.C.; Siqueira, R.A.; Damasceno, C.M.; Colombo, A.L. Outbreak of candidemia caused by fluconazole-resistant Candida parapsilosis strains in an intensive care unit. BMC Infect. Dis. 2016, 16, 433. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

33. Choi, Y.J.; Kim, Y.J.; Yong, D.; Byun, J.H.; Kim, T.S.; Chang, Y.S.; Choi, M.J.; Byeon, S.A.; Won, E.J.; Kim, S.H.; et al. Fluconazole-Resistant Candida parapsilosis Bloodstream Isolates with Y132F Mutation in ERG11 Gene, South Korea. Emerg. Infect. Dis. 2018, 24, 1768–1770. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

34. Fan, X.; Xiao, M.; Zhang, D.; Huang, J.J.; Wang, H.; Hou, X.; Zhang, L.; Kong, F.; Chen, S.C.; Tong, Z.H.; et al. Molecular mechanisms of azole resistance in Candida tropicalis isolates causing invasive candidiasis in China. Clin. Microbiol. Infect. 2019, 25, 885–891. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

35. Paul, S.; Kannan, I.; Mohranam, K. Extensive ERG11 mutations associated with fluconazole-resistant Candida albicans isolated from HIV-infected patients. Curr. Med. Mycol. 2019, 5, 1–6. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
36. Zheng, S.; Ng, T.Y.; Li, H.; Tan, A.L.; Tan, T.T.; Tan, B.H. A dedicated fungal culture medium is useful in the diagnosis of fungemia: A retrospective cross-sectional study. *PLoS ONE* **2016**, *11*, e0164668. [CrossRef]

37. Astvad, K.M.T.; Johansen, H.K.; Røder, B.L.; Rosenvinge, F.S.; Knudsen, J.D.; Lemming, L.; Schønheyder, H.C.; Hare, R.K.; Kristensen, L.; Nielsen, L.; et al. Update from a 12-Year Nationwide Fungemia Surveillance: Increasing Intrinsic and Acquired Resistance Causes Concern. *J. Clin. Microbiol.* **2018**, *56*, e01564-17. [CrossRef]