Epidemiology, clinical characteristics, and risk factors for mortality of early- and late-onset invasive candidiasis in intensive care units in China

Yi Yang, MDa, Fengmei Guo, MDa, Yan Kang, MDb, Bin Zang, MDc, Wei Cui, MDd, Bingyu Qin, MDe, Yingzhi Qin, MDf, Qiang Fang, MDg, Tiehe Qin, Mdh, Dongpo Jiang, MDi, Bojing Cai, MSj, Ruoyu Li, MDk, Haibo Qiu, MDa,, on behalf of the China-SCAN Team

Abstract
To identify the epidemiology, treatments, outcomes, and risk factors for patients with early- or late-onset invasive candidiasis (EOIC or LOIC) in intensive care units in China. Patients were classified as EOIC (<10 days) or LOIC (>10 days) according to the time from hospital admission to IC onset to identify distinct clinical characteristics.

There were 105 EOIC cases and 201 LOIC cases in this study. EOIC was related to more severe clinical conditions at ICU admission or prior to IC. Significantly, more cases of Candida parapsilosis infection were found in patients with LOIC than in those with EOIC. The mortality of EOIC was significantly lower than that for LOIC. Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score at ICU diagnosis in the EOIC group and the interval from ICU admission to ICI occurrence in the LOIC group were identified as risk factors for mortality. Susceptibility to the first-line agent was associated with a lower risk of mortality in the LOIC group.

The mortality rate was significantly lower in the EOIC group, and there were more cases of non-albicans infection in the LOIC group. Susceptibility to the first-line agent was an important predictor of mortality in the LOIC group. SOFA score at ICI diagnosis in the EOIC group and interval from ICU admission to ICI occurrence in the LOIC group were identified as risk factors for mortality.

Abbreviations: APACHE II = Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II, CLSI = Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute, CNS = central nervous system, COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, EOIC = early-onset IC, HCA = healthcare-associated Candidemia, ICI = invasive candidiasis infection, ICUs = intensive care units, LOIC = late-onset IC; SD = standard deviation, SOFA = Sequential Organ Failure Assessment.

Keywords: early-onset invasive candidiasis, epidemiology, intensive care unit, late-onset invasive candidiasis, risk factors

1. Introduction
The incidence of invasive candidiasis (IC), the third most common cause of infection in intensive care units (ICUs) worldwide, accounts for 17% of infections[1] and has been increasing throughout the world in recent years. Due to the high associated mortality and hospital costs,[2,3] IC is an increasing concern, especially for critically ill patients. Candida albicans have been the most commonly isolated strain in hospital patients for the past 20 years; however, the epidemiological trend of IC has changed towards increasing rates of infection with non-albicans strains in recent years.[4] Particularly, Candida glabrata is now responsible for 15% to 20% of Candida infections in most countries, and the susceptibility of Candida to the azole antifungals is reduced.[5,6]

Knowledge of IC epidemiology, including geographical differences, is an important guide to prescribing practices and health policy and has far reaching clinical implications.[7] In addition, the epidemiology of IC varies with the time of onset,[7,10] and candidemia occurring more than 48 hours after admission is usually described as being healthcare-associated candidaemia (HCA).[10,11] There are few studies on the clinical characteristics and outcomes of early-onset IC (EOIC) with variable time definitions, ranging from 2 to 14 days after hospital admission.[12–14] In a cohort of critically ill patients with candidemia, onset within 14 days of hospital admission, higher mortality, and hospital costs were closely associated with inadequate initial antifungal therapy.[13] To date, there has been no scientific agreement on the definitions of EOIC and LOIC.
Various times for EOIC definition in a few studies on the clinical characteristics and outcomes of EOIC have ranged from 2 to 14 days after hospital admission, with 1 study comparing the clinical characteristics with prognosis of candidaemia within or 10 days after admission, whereas most studies identified EOIC as IC onset within 48 h of hospital admission. Because no clinical data for EOIC or LOIC in patients in Chinese ICUs have been reported so far, and the development of IC caused by opportunistic pathogens may be slow, we conducted an observational, multicentre study in 67 ICUs in China between November 2009 and April 2011 and compared the epidemiology, clinical characteristics, treatment, and risk factors in patients with EOIC (≤10 days) and LOIC (>10 days) after hospital admission in Chinese ICUs.

2. Methods

2.1. Study design and patients

The patients were from the China-SCAN study conducted from November 2009 to April 2011. In brief, 67 closed ICUs in general hospitals distributed throughout China participated in the observational multicentre study of proven IC. Patient inclusion criteria were age ≥18 years with clinical signs of infection and at least 1 of the following diagnostic criteria: histopathological, cytopathological, or direct microscopic confirmation of yeast cells in a specimen obtained by needle aspiration or biopsy from a normally sterile site; at least 1 peripheral blood culture positive for Candida; or positive Candida culture from a sample obtained by sterile technique from a normally sterile site. Samples from a drain, including urine and respiratory tract secretions that were not confirmed to be sterile were excluded. Patients were grouped according to the time of onset of the disease after hospital admission: ≤10 days for EOIC or >10 days for LOIC. APACHE II and Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) scores were used to evaluate disease severity at the time of patient ICU admission and IC diagnosis. The time of onset refers to the date of diagnosis of IC, which was defined as the date when the first positive specimen was obtained. Chronic hepatic insufficiency was defined as biopsy-proven cirrhosis and portal hypertension, episodes of past upper gastrointestinal bleeding attributed to portal hypertension, or prior episodes of hepatic failure/encephalopathy/coma. Gastrointestinal dysfunction was defined as hemorrhage, food intolerance, perforation, surgery, acalculouschole cystitis, or intra-abdominal hypertension. Severe sepsis referred to the presence of known or suspected infection in association with systemic inflammatory response syndrome and organ dysfunction. Septic shock was defined as sepsis-induced hypotension that persisted despite adequate fluid resuscitation. Isolated Candida species were cultured and identified in vitro thereafter tested against amphotericin B, fluconazole, voriconazole, itraconazole, and caspofungin according to the CLSI M27-A3 microbroth dilution method at the Research Center for Medical Mycology, Peking University First Hospital, Beijing, China. The sensitivity cut-offs values were ≤8 mg/L for fluconazole, ≤1 mg/L for voriconazole, ≤2 mg/L for caspofungin, ≤0.125 mg/L for itraconazole, and ≤2 mg/L for amphotericin B. The epidemiologic data, pathogen-related, clinical characteristics, and therapeutic data were collected from all eligible patients treated in the participating ICUs. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Zhongda Hospital of Southeast University, the lead investigation site.

2.2. Statistical analysis

Continuous variables were described as mean ± standard deviation (SD) or median and range and compared with Student t tests if normally distributed or by Wilcoxon tests if non-normally distributed. Categorical variables were described as frequencies and percentages and compared with chi-squared tests or Fisher exact tests. Multivariate analysis with Cox proportional hazard model was used to identify independent risk factors for mortality among all variables with a P value < .05 on chi-squared test. P values < .05 were considered as statistically significant. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS 9.1 (SAS Institute INC, Cary NC).

3. Results

3.1. Patient characteristics

Three hundred sixty-six patients were diagnosed with IC among a total of 96,060 ICU patients from 67 centers throughout China were included in this study. Out of the 306 patients, 290 (94.8%) were diagnosed solely based on at least 1 positive blood culture; 12 (3.9%) cases were diagnosed based on positive fluid culture from a normally sterile site (3 cases of CNS candidiasis, 8 cases of intra-abdominal candidiasis, and 1 case of candida pleuritis); and 3 were diagnosed based on candidaemia and positive culture from a normally sterile site. One pulmonary candidiasis was confirmed by histopathology.

Of these 306 patients, 105 cases were classified as EOIC and 201 cases as LOIC. The median (Q1, Q3) times between ICU admission and confirmed diagnosis of IC were 4 days (Q1–Q3, 1–7 days) and 17 days (Q1–Q3, 10–33 days) in the EOIC and LOIC groups, respectively. The main characteristics of the patients are detailed in Table 1.

The mean (SD) SOFA scores at diagnosis were 11.7 (±3.8) and 10.2 (±3.3; P < .001) in the EOIC and LOIC groups, respectively. The most common underlying diseases in the 2 groups were type 2 diabetes, chronic cardiac dysfunction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and solid tumors. There were more patients with solid tumors in the LOIC group (P = .001) than in the EOIC group. Compared with patients in the LOIC group, more patients were treated with surgery in the EOIC group (46.7% vs 33.8%, P = .035). Other risk factors present in 40% to 60% of patients during the 2 weeks prior to study entry were gastrointestinal dysfunction and total parenteral nutrition in the 2 groups. More than 50% of patients in the EOIC and LOIC groups (59.0% vs 89.1%, P < .001) had a recent history of antibiotic therapy, and more than 70% of patients (76.2% vs 77.6%, P = .659) had invasive mechanical ventilation and central venous catheterization (76.2% vs 86.1%, P = .03; Table 1).

3.2. Microbiology data

Although the IC diagnosis was confirmed for all 306 patients in local laboratories, not all hospitals sent isolates to the central laboratory for confirmation (reasons included individual hospital policy and suboptimal storage or handling of isolates). Thus, the dataset was incomplete in this regard. A total of 387 isolates from 244 patients, 86 patients in the EOIC group, and 158 patients in the LOIC group were analyzed. C. albicans was the most prevalent species in both EOIC and LOIC cases (47.7% and 36.1%, P = .101 in the EOIC group and LOIC group, respectively), while the proportion of different non-C. albicans infections tended to be different between patients with EOIC and LOIC. Especially for Candida tropicalis and Candida parapsilosis infections, C. parapsilosis was more prevalent.
in LOIC cases than in EOIC cases (10/86, 11.6% vs 45/158, 28.5%, \(P = .002\)), whereas \(C.\) tropicalis was more common in EOIC cases (20/86, 23.3% vs 21/158, 13.3%, \(P = .05\)). There were no statistical differences among the distributions of other species within the 2 groups (Table 2).

### Table 2

| Fungal species                  | EOIC (n = 86) | LOIC (n = 158) | \(P\) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------|
| Candida albicans                | 41 (47.7%)    | 57 (36.1%)     | .101 |
| Candida tropicalis              | 20 (23.3%)    | 21 (13.3%)     | .05  |
| Candida parapsilosis            | 10 (11.6%)    | 45 (28.5%)     | .002 |
| Candida glabrata                | 11 (12.8%)    | 16 (10.1%)     | .529 |
| Candida guilliermondii          | 0             | 4 (2.5%)       | .300 |
| Candida haemulonii              | 0             | 4 (2.5%)       | .300 |
| Candida krusei                  | 1 (1.2%)      | 0              | .355 |
| Other rare species\(^a\)        | 1 (1.2%)      | 6 (3.8%)       | .239 |
| Mixed infections                | 2 (2.3%)      | 5 (3.2%)       | 1.00 |

\(^a\)Other rare species included: \(C.\) alboparapsilosis, \(C.\) emophilis, \(C.\) pelliculosa, \(C.\) lipolytica, \(C.\) parapsilosis.

### 3.3. Treatment and outcomes

The overall mortality rate of all the patients was 36.6% (112/306), and the mortality in the EOIC group was significantly lower than that in the LOIC group (30/105, 28.6% vs 82/201, 40.8%, \(P = .045\)). A total of 268/306 (87.6%) patients (89 in the EOIC group and 179 in the LOIC group), received antifungal therapy. The most commonly used antifungal agent was fluconazole, followed by the echinocandins. There was no significant difference between the EOIC and LOIC groups in the first-line antifungal agents used or in the susceptibility to the first-line agent (Table 3).

### 3.4. Risk factors associated with EOIC mortality

The results of univariate analysis of the factors associated with mortality among 103 patients with EOIC (30 nonsurvivors and 73 survivors) are presented in Table 4: patients with a higher SOFA score at IC diagnosis, severe sepsis, invasive mechanical ventilation, or gastrointestinal dysfunction had a higher mortality. However, multivariate analysis by COX model showed that only SOFA at IC diagnosis tended to be associated with decreased survival (hazard ratio = 1.09, \(P = .0543\); Table 5).
The results of univariate analysis for 201 patients with LOIC (82 nonsurvivors and 119 survivors) are presented in Table 6. Older patients and patients with severe sepsis, chronic renal insufficiency, and higher SOFA score had a higher risk of mortality. Susceptibility to the first-line agent was associated with a lower risk of mortality. Multivariate analysis by the Cox model showed that interval from ICU admission to ICI occurrence was a risk factor for mortality (hazard ratio = 1.009, P = .001; Table 7).

3.5. Risk factors associated with LOIC mortality

Investigations of IC according to the time of onset after hospital admission are rare. To our best knowledge, this is the first study of the epidemiology, treatment, outcomes, and risk factors for mortality in EOIC and LOIC patients in Chinese ICUs in which IC was diagnosed by the same strict criteria used in another study.[21] In this study, we found that SOFA scores were higher at IC was diagnosed by the same strict criteria used in another study.[21] In this study, we found that SOFA scores were higher at IC diagnosis than in those with LOIC, suggesting that the clinical conditions of patients with EOIC are more severe than those with LOIC both at ICU admission and at IC diagnosis.

_C. albicans_ was found to be the most prevalent Candida species in patients with both EOIC and LOIC; however, non-albicans species constituted 63.9% of isolates in patients with EOIC and 52.3% of isolates in patients with EOIC. These distributions of _C. albicans_ and non-albicans species were in accordance with those in recent reports both in China and other countries.[22–23] The reasons for the gradually increasing incidence of non-albicans infections may be ascribed to the increased use of relatively low-cost azoles, an ageing population, the clinical condition of patients, and central venous catheter placement. The proportions of different non-albicans species were different between patients with different underlying conditions.

### Table 3

**Treatments and outcomes of 306 patients with EOIC or LOIC.**

| Category | EOIC (n = 105) | LOIC (n = 201) | P |
|----------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Initial antifungal agent* | | | |
| Amphotericin B | 3 (3.4%) | 3 (1.7%) | .843 |
| Fluconazole | 35 (39.3%) | 66 (36.9%) | .930 |
| Voriconazole | 17 (19.1%) | 32 (17.9%) | .951 |
| Itraconazole | 5 (5.6%) | 17 (9.5%) | .351 |
| Caspofungin | 19 (21.3%) | 45 (25.1%) | .466 |
| Micafungin | 9 (10.1%) | 14 (7.8%) | .651 |
| Combined therapy | 1 (1.1%) | 2 (1.1%) | .907 |
| Untreated | 16 (15.2%) | 22 (10.9%) | .280 |
| Susceptibility to first-line antifungals | | | |
| Outcome | 55 (85.9%) | 102 (80.3%) | .338 |
| Death/survival | 30/75 | 82/119 | .045 |

EOIC = early-onset IC, LOIC = late-onset IC.

*The calculated proportion of patients who received antifungal therapy (89 patients in EOIC group and 179 patients in LOIC group).

### Table 4

**Differences between EOIC patients (n = 105) who experienced death or survival.**

| Variable | Death (n = 30) | Survival (n = 75) | P |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Interval between ICU admission and IC diagnosis, median (Q1–Q3) | 4.5 (3, 7) | 4 (2, 7) | .288 |
| Age (y), median (range) | 64 (21–83) | 57 (20–85) | .556 |
| Gender (male) | 21 (70.0%) | 47 (62.7%) | .508 |
| Severe sepsis | 23 (76.7%) | 40 (53.3%) | .030 |
| Septic shock | 17 (56.7%) | 25 (33.3%) | .046 |
| Invasive mechanical ventilation | 28 (93.3%) | 52 (69.3%) | .009 |
| Concomitant disease, n (%) | | | |
| Solid tumor | 3 (10.0%) | 7 (8.0%) | .741 |
| Haematological malignancy | – | 2 (1.3%) | 1.000 |
| Diabetes | 5 (16.7%) | 13 (17.3%) | .935 |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | 3 (10.0%) | 7 (9.3%) | 1.000 |
| Chronic renal insufficiency | 3 (10.0%) | 8 (10.6%) | 1.000 |
| Chronic hepatic insufficiency | – | 2 (2.7%) | 1.000 |
| Chronic cardiac dysfunction | 6 (20.0%) | 10 (13.3%) | .348 |
| Gastrointestinal dysfunction | 22 (73.3%) | 37 (49.3%) | .030 |
| Illness severity at ICU admission | | | |
| APACHE II score, mean (SD) | 29.0 (6.14) | 28.0 (6.48) | .494 |
| SOFA score, mean (SD) | 13.7 (2.40) | 11.4 (3.81) | .001 |
| Illness severity at ICI diagnosis | | | |
| APACHE II score, mean (SD) | 28.3 (7.89) | 27.3 (6.74) | .588 |
| SOFA score, mean (SD) | 13.1 (3.07) | 11.2 (3.89) | .024 |
| Fungal species† | | | |
| _Candida albicans_ | 10 (47.6%) | 31 (47.7%) | 1.000 |
| Non- _Candida albicans_ | 11 (52.4%) | 34 (52.3%) | 1.000 |
| _Candida tropicalis_ | 8 (38.1%) | 12 (18.5%) | .079 |
| _Candida parapsilosis_ | 2 (9.5%) | 8 (12.3%) | 1.000 |
| _Candida glabrata_ | 1 (4.8%) | 10 (15.4%) | .281 |
| Antifungal treatment | 25 | 64 | |
| First-line antifungal agent for at least 48 h | 14 | 51 | |
| Azoles | 10 (71.4%) | 30 (58.8%) | .722 |
| Echinocandins | 4 (28.6%) | 19 (37.3%) | 1.000 |
| Others | – | 2 (3.9%) | 1.000 |
| Susceptibility to first-line antifungals† | 15 (83.3%) | 40 (87.0%) | .703 |

APACHE II = Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II, EOIC = early-onset IC, ICI = invasive candidiasis infection, ICUs = intensive care units, SD = standard deviation, SOFA = Sequential Organ Failure Assessment.

†The calculated proportion of patients who received antifungal therapy and identified species (18 patients in death group and 46 patients in survival group).

### Table 5

**Results of Cox model analysis for risk factors associated with mortality among EOIC patients (n = 105).**

| Variables | Hazard ratio | Coefficient | Standard error | Chi-squared | P |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| Chronic cardiac dysfunction | 1.85 | 0.615 | 0.392 | 2.454 | .117 |
| Invasive mechanical ventilation | 2.03 | 0.709 | 0.515 | 1.894 | .169 |
| Age | 1.00 | 0.003 | 0.009 | 1.018 | .743 |
| Severe sepsis | 1.25 | 0.219 | 0.382 | 0.331 | .565 |
| SOFA score at ICU admission | 1.02 | 0.019 | 0.024 | 0.638 | .424 |
| SOFA score at ICI diagnosis | 1.09 | 0.090 | 0.047 | 3.703 | .054 |

Survival time is from ICI onset to discharge or death. EOIC = early-onset IC, ICI = invasive candidiasis infection, ICUs = intensive care units, SOFA = Sequential Organ Failure Assessment.
Differences between LOIC patients (n = 201) who experienced death or survival.

| Variable                          | Death (n = 82) | Survival (n = 119) | P     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| Interval between ICU admission and ICI diagnosis, median (Q1–Q3) | 20.5 (11–55) | 14 (9–27) | .008  |
| Age (y), median (range)           | 77.5 (19–96) | 62 (18–93) | .002  |
| Gender (male)                     | 59 (72.0%)   | 83 (69.7%) | .755  |
| Severe sepsis                     | 51 (62.2%)   | 53 (44.5%) | .015  |
| Septic shock                      | 24 (29.3%)   | 20 (16.8%) | .039  |
| Invasive mechanical ventilation   | 69 (84.1%)   | 67 (73.1%) | .065  |
| Concomitant disease, n (%)        |               |                   |       |
| Solid tumor                       | 25 (30.5%)   | 23 (19.3%) | .068  |
| Haematological malignancy         | 1 (1.2%)     | –                 | .651  |
| Diabetes                          | 26 (31.7%)   | 24 (20.2%) | .070  |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | 11 (13.4%)  | 14 (11.8%) | .829  |
| Chronic renal insufficiency       | 14 (17.0%)  | 8 (6.4%)  | .021  |
| Chronic hepatic insufficiency     | 7 (8.5%)     | 7 (5.9%)  | .575  |
| Chronic cardiac dysfunction       | 23 (28.0%)   | 25 (21.0%) | .249  |
| Illness severity at ICU admission |               |                   |       |
| APACHE II score, mean (SD)        | 28.0 (7.22)  | 25.8 (7.68) | .081  |
| SOFA score, mean (SD)             | 10.8 (2.96)  | 10.4 (3.38) | .500  |
| Illness severity at ICI diagnosis |               |                   |       |
| APACHE II score, mean (SD)        | 27.5 (6.67)  | 26.24 (7.27) | .248  |
| SOFA score, mean (SD)             | 11.1 (3.05)  | 9.6 (3.23) | .001  |
| Fungal species*                   |               |                   |       |
| Candida albicans                  | 19 (23.7%)   | 38 (40.4%) | .181  |
| Non-Candida albicans              | 45 (70.3%)   | 56 (59.6%) | .167  |
| Candida tropicalis                | 7 (10.9%)    | 14 (14.9%) | .634  |
| Candida parapsilosis              | 21 (32.6%)   | 24 (25.5%) | .371  |
| Candida glabrata                  | 10 (15.6%)   | 6 (6.4%)  | .066  |
| Antifungal treatment              | 71           | 108          |       |
| First-line antifungal agent for at least 48 h | 64 | 88 |
| Azoles                            | 43 (67.2%)   | 54 (61.4%) | .750  |
| Echinocandins                     | 20 (31.3%)   | 33 (37.5%) |       |
| Others                            | 1 (1.6%)     | 1 (1.1%)  |       |
| Susceptibility to first-line antifungals† | 35 (70.0%) | 67 (87.0%) | .023  |

*Proportions of fungal species were calculated using stains identified by the central laboratory in 84 cases in death group and 94 patients in survival group.
†Calculated proportion of patients who received antifungal therapy and identified species (50 patients in death group and 77 patients in survival group).

The crude mortality rate in the EOIC group was significantly lower than that in the LOIC group. This is in line with previous findings from a study in which mortality was significantly lower in patients with EOIC (<10 days after admission) compared with patients with candidemia diagnosed 10 days after admission. The explanation for this lower mortality in the EOIC group is likely related to less severe infection. However, the EOIC group had higher SOFA scores, at ICI, which showed a contradictory result. Furthermore, Cox hazard ratio analysis showed only SOFA score at ICI diagnosis in the EOIC group was a risk factor for mortality. The reason could be that despite the severity in the EOIC group, these patients were younger and had used less antibiotics previously. Finally, the interval from ICU admission to ICI occurrence was identified as a risk factor for mortality in the EOIC group, which was logical given that a prolonged ICU stay itself is often related to poor outcomes.

We found that the most commonly used antifungal drug was fluconazole followed by the echinocandins both in the EOIC and LOIC groups. Based on the previous China-SCAN study, the resistance to itraconazole is reasonably high, and the sensitivity to fluconazole is relatively low among non-albicans species. We hypothesized that resistance to fluconazole is widespread, especially among C. glabrata and C. parapsilosis infections in another study. Therefore, it is important to monitor the susceptibility and earlier use of effective non-azole antifungals in patients with probable or proven azole resistance, and an early and effective treatment of IC is critical for improved prognosis.

At least 3 limitations exist in the present study. First, not all isolates were sent to the central laboratory for our study population, so that the distribution of Candida species between EOIC and LOIC might not be precisely represented by our evaluation; second, differences in clinical practices across centers might influence the diagnosis and management of IC, and thus, the mortalities in the 2 different groups might not be precise. The average number of patients included from each center was 4.6 patients/center, and a mixed model might need a larger sample size. Third, the pathogenesis of IC most likely reflects a multifactorial process in which comorbidities, host factors, and colonization contribute to the invasion of the Candida spp. Thus, a further study with a larger sample size is needed to confirm the findings of our present study.

Nevertheless, significant differences were observed between patients with LOIC and EOIC in terms of mortality rates and non-albicans Candida species infection. SOFA score at ICI admission to ICI occurrence was identified as a risk factor for mortality in the EOIC group, which was logical given that a prolonged ICU stay itself is often related to poor outcomes.

| Variables | Hazard ratio | Coefficient | Standard error | Chi-squared | P     |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| Solid tumour | 2.04         | 0.712       | 0.443          | 2.582       | .108  |
| Diabetes   | 1.42         | 0.353       | 0.364          | 0.943       | .332  |
| Chronic hepatic insufficiency | 1.25       | 0.225       | 0.483          | 0.217       | .641  |
| Invasive mechanical ventilation | 1.72       | 0.544       | 0.501          | 1.177       | .278  |
| Age        | 0.99         | –0.011      | 0.010          | 1.177       | .278  |
| APACHE II score at ICI diagnosis | 1.04      | 0.035       | 0.027          | 1.635       | .201  |
| Susceptible to first-line antifungal agents | 0.37  | –0.985      | 0.375          | 6.099       | .009  |
| Interval from ICU admission to ICI occurrence | 1.01 | 0.009       | 0.003          | 10.823      | .001  |

*APACHE II = Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II, ICI = invasive candidiasis infection, ICU = intensive care units, LOIC = late-onset IC, SD = standard deviation, SOFA = Sequential Organ Failure Assessment.
†Proportions of fungal species were calculated using stains identified by the central laboratory in 84 cases in death group and 94 patients in survival group.
‡Calculated proportion of patients who received antifungal therapy and identified species (50 patients in death group and 77 patients in survival group).

The most prevalent non-albicans species in EOIC may be that there were severe complications associated with hospitalization, more surgeries, and higher SOFA scores in this group, whereas the most common non-albicans isolate in LOIC was C. parapsilosis, which may be caused by the longer duration of admission and intravenous catheter indwelling.
diagnosis was associated with higher mortality in EOIC, whereas a longer interval from ICU admission to ICI onset played a more important role for LOIC. Also, susceptibility to the first-line agent was a predictor of mortality in LOIC. Our findings highlight the need for earlier use of effective antifungals to reduce mortality.

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