

test result in 15–30 min, it still requires up to 2 h of incubation for some isolates and to confirm a negative test result. The rCIM(-A) may already give a positive result at 2 h (30 min of incubation and 1.5 h of growth monitoring of the *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922 indicator strain) using standard routine equipment and reagents (carbapenem discs, Trypticase soy broth, a tabletop centrifuge, a vortex and a nephelometer). We agree that the rCIM requires extra hands-on time, thus making it less attractive for high-throughput laboratories, but it may be appropriate for low-throughput and low-resource settings.<sup>2,3</sup> Finally, both assays have similar turnaround times, as both require overnight bacterial cultures, and the longer detection time of the rCIM is only a small fraction of total reporting time. Moreover, for initiating appropriate antibiotic treatments in critically ill patients, rapid susceptibility testing using techniques that have been developed and endorsed by EUCAST are crucial, even in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>11</sup>

### Transparency declarations





None to declare.

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## Comment on: Multicentre validation of a EUCAST method for the antifungal susceptibility testing of microconidia-forming dermatophytes

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In 2020, we published a multicentre study validating a new EUCAST method for the antifungal susceptibility testing of microconidia-forming dermatophytes.<sup>1</sup> We included molecularly confirmed terbinafine-resistant and -susceptible *Trichophyton rubrum* and *Trichophyton interdigitale* isolates and established wild-type upper MIC limits (WT-UL) for both species. Since then, the taxonomy for the *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*/*T. interdigitale* complex has been revised and a new species *Trichophyton indotineae* proposed for the highly terbinafine-resistant Indian isolates.<sup>2,3</sup> These species cannot be distinguished by phenotypic tests although *T. indotineae* isolates are most often lighter in colour and less often positive in Tween-80 opacity, urea hydrolysis and hair perforation tests than *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. interdigitale*.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, *T. indotineae* has been reported in the literature under all three species names and susceptibility data reported for the species complex cannot be reliably linked to the individual species unless identification to the *sensu stricto* level has been performed molecularly according to the new taxonomy. Of note, both the susceptible and the resistant *T. interdigitale* isolates included in our study derived from India, and all have been reclassified as *T. indotineae* by DNA sequencing of ITS and the SQLE gene and comparison with the primary strain NUBS19006<sup>2</sup> Genbank ITS: LC508024 and Genbank squalene epoxidase: LC510258 (F397L) sequences.

Two recent studies suggest that there may be a 1–2 two-fold dilution difference between the susceptibility of the wild-type populations of *T. interdigitale* and *T. indotineae* and thus also between future ECOFFs for the two species. Siopi *et al.*<sup>4</sup> used the E.Def. 11.0 and found that the modal MICs of molecularly identified *T. interdigitale* isolates were one 2-fold dilution lower than the modal MICs of the susceptible *T. indotineae* in our multicentre study while QC isolates were on their target MICs. Moreover, Kong *et al.*<sup>5</sup> used the EUCAST 9.3 mould method with complete growth inhibition endpoint read visually and compared the susceptibility of molecularly identified isolates of *T. interdigitale*, *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. indotineae*. In that study, the terbinafine modal MICs/geometric mean MICs (mg/L) of the *T. interdigitale*, *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. indotineae* wild-type populations were 0.016/0.02, 0.03/0.03 and 0.06/ND.

Therefore, the data and established WT-UL values (terbinafine 0.125 mg/L, voriconazole 1 mg/L, itraconazole 0.25 mg/L and amorolfine 0.5 mg/L) in our multicentre study apply to *T. indotineae* and not *T. interdigitale*. WT-UL values for *T. interdigitale* are not available and they will have to be set when additional susceptibility studies including this species have been performed.

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## Transparency declarations

The authors have no conflicts with respect to the current study. Outside of the current work M.C.A. has, over the past 5 years, received research grants/contract work (paid to the SSI) from Amlyx, Basilea, Cidara, F2G, Gilead, Novabiotics and Scynexis, and speaker honoraria (personal fee) from Astellas, Chiesi, Gilead, MSD, and SEGES. She is the current chairman of the EUCAST-AFST. K.M.J. has received a meeting grant from MSD

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## Comment on: Measuring the impacts of the Using Antibiotics Wisely campaign on Canadian community utilization of oral antibiotics for respiratory tract infections: a time-series analysis from 2015 to 2019

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