

Invasive fungal infections in children with cancer, neutropenia and fever, in Chile

Infección micótica profunda en niños con cáncer, neutropenia y fiebre, en Chile.

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BACKGROUND: Invasive fungal infections (IFI) cause prolonged hospitalizations and increase the possibility of death among patients with cancer and febrile neutropenia (FN). Up to 10% of febrile neutropenic episodes may be caused by IFI. **AIM:** To estimate the incidence of IFI among a large group of Chilean children with cancer and FN. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** Clinical and laboratory information was collected from a data base provided by the "Programa Infantil Nacional de Drogas Antineoplásicas" (PINDA) that included 445 FN episodes occurring in five hospitals in Santiago, Chile. This information was used to identify children that presented with signs and symptoms compatible with an IFI. According to predefined criteria based on a literature review, IFI episodes were categorized as "proven", "probable" or "possible". **RESULTS:** A total of 41/445 episodes

(9.2%) were compatible with an IFI of which 4 (0.9%) were proven, 23 (5.2%) probable, and 14 (3.1%) possible. Hospitalization was longer (27