

# Active surveillance of candidemia in children from latin america: A key requirement for improving disease outcome

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**BACKGROUND::** Active surveillance is necessary for improving the management and outcomes of patients with candidemia. The aim of this study was to describe the epidemiologic and clinical features of candidemia in pediatric patients in Latin America. **METHOD::** Prospective, multicenter, surveillance study of candidemia in a pediatric population from 23 hospitals in 8 Latin America countries between November 2008 and October 2010. **RESULTS::** Three hundred and two cases of candidemia were reported with a median incidence of 0.81/1000 admissions. Eighty nine (29%) were neonates. The main risk factors were prematurity, intensive care unit (ICU) admission, parenteral nutrition, respiratory disease and mechanical ventilation in neonates and malignancy, neutropenia, neurological disease and previous use of corticosteroids in children. The main species isolated in neonates and children were *Candida albicans* (43.8% and 35.7%), *Candida parapsilosis* (27.0% and 26.3%) and *Candida tropicalis* (14.6% and