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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58112

Title: *To Study Phenotypic Identification of Candida Isolates among Clinical Samples at Tertiary Level Hospital, Western Rajasthan*

### Recommendation:

- Accept as it is .....
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision .....
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

#### Strength of the study:

- The study addresses an important topic in clinical microbiology
- A reasonable sample size improves the reliability of findings
- Conventional methods were compared with MALDI TOF MS for confirmation
- Results are presented using clear tables and figures
- The discussion is supported by relevant published literature
- The findings have practical value for routine laboratory diagnosis
- The conclusion is consistent with the study objectives

#### Weakness of the study:

- Ethical clearance and informed consent are not clearly described
- Antifungal susceptibility testing was not included
- The study was conducted at a single center with a short duration
- Some grammatical and typographical errors require correction
- Statistical analysis could be presented in greater detail
- Recent references may be added to strengthen the discussion
- A few formatting inconsistencies should be corrected before publication

#### Reviewers Comments:

This manuscript presents a useful study on the phenotypic identification of Candida species and compares conventional laboratory methods with MALDI TOF MS for species confirmation. The topic is clinically relevant because accurate identification of Candida species is essential for appropriate patient management. The methodology is clearly described, and the results are presented in an organized manner with supportive tables and figures. However, the manuscript should clearly mention whether ethical committee approval and informed consent were obtained before conducting the study. Minor grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and formatting inconsistencies should be corrected to improve readability. The study would also benefit from including antifungal susceptibility testing and a more detailed statistical analysis. As the work represents findings from a single tertiary care center over a limited period, the generalizability of the results should be acknowledged. Overall, the manuscript is scientifically sound and suitable for publication after minor revision.

#### Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

The manuscript appears to be an original research study, and no obvious indication of duplicate publication or copied content was identified during this review. No apparent evidence of plagiarism was observed. A standard plagiarism similarity assessment by the journal is recommended before final acceptance to ensure originality and compliance with publication ethics.