

# Complicanze micotiche in pazienti COVID ed EUCAST

Dott.ssa Fiorenza Cascone

UOSD Malattie Infettive -COVID

Ospedale G.P. II - ASP RG

Dirigente Responsabile M A Di Rosolini

25-2-2021

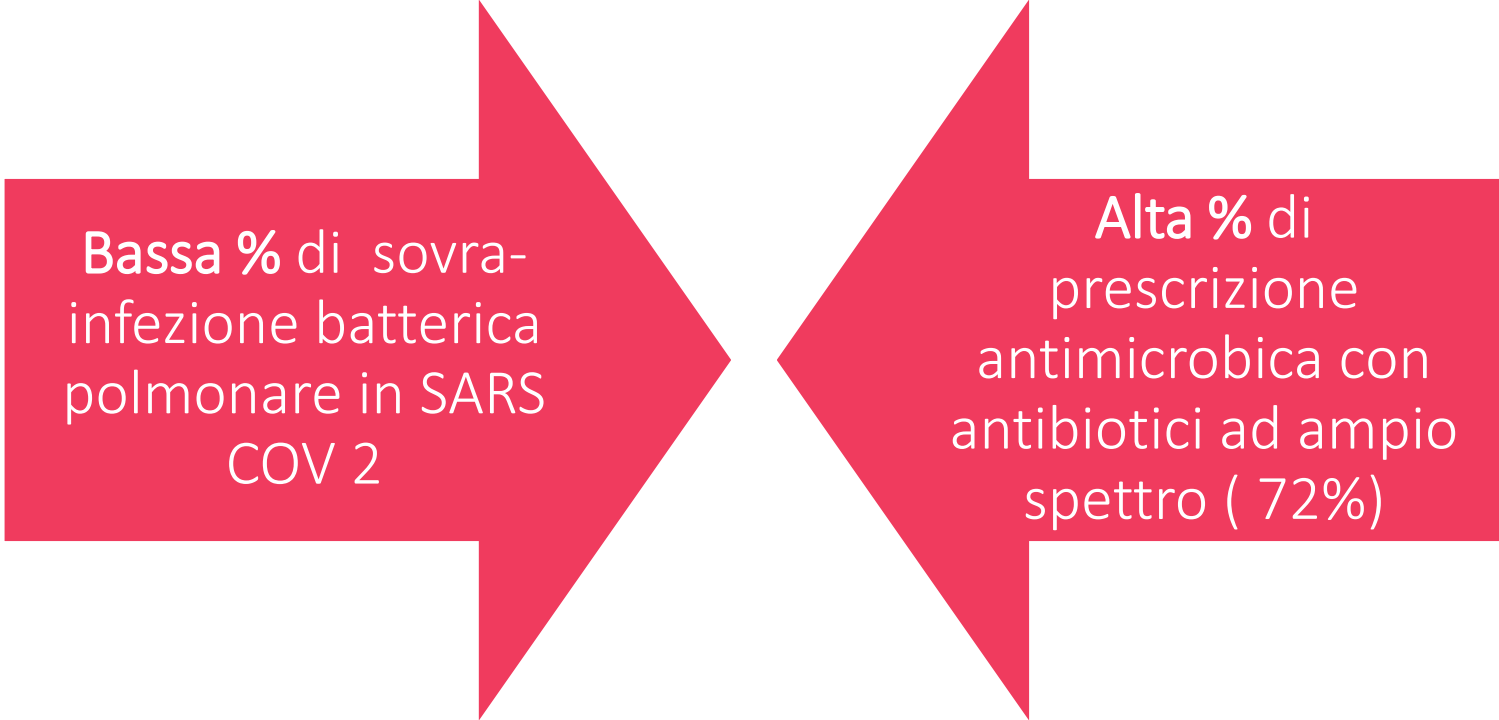
## Premessa

- Una recente review relativa al ruolo della co-infezione nei pazienti con COVID-19 ha selezionato nuovi studi che riportano un 8 % di co-infezioni batteriche/fungine in generale.
- Oltre alle co-infezioni conosciute da più tempo, come ad esempio quelle da *S. pneumoniae* o *S. aureus*, recentemente è stata dimostrata l'importanza delle infezioni fungine, in particolare da *Aspergillus spp.* (incidenza 5-33%)

Per tali motivi  
per aumentare la sopravvivenza dei pazienti  
è essenziale mantenere

un elevato livello  
di sospetto clinico

un approccio  
diagnostico-  
terapeutico  
corretto e precoce



**Bassa % di sovra-  
infezione batterica  
polmonare in SARS  
COV 2**

**Alta % di  
prescrizione  
antimicrobica con  
antibiotici ad ampio  
spettro ( 72%)**

## La terapia antibiotica empirica : quando?

➤ NO di routine

➤ SI se la diagnosi è incerta , il sospetto clinico di co-infezione batterica alto

## Cenni di laboratorio ed indici di flogosi in COVID-19

- Basso numero totale di linfociti e piastrine all'inizio della malattia ( fattori predittivi di esito avverso )
  - Livelli elevati di PCR
  - Aumento ferritina
  - Livello normale di PROCALCITONINA
  - D-dimero significativamente elevato ( casi più gravi)
  - Aumento IL-4, IL-6 , IL-10, TNF $\alpha$  , IFN  $\gamma$
  - Altro
- 
- Rapido e significativamente aumento di PCR
  - Valori elevati di PROCALCITONINA



***Possibile infezione secondaria, batterica ma non solo !***

## Micosi polmonari invasive in Coronavirus 19

Non è nota l'incidenza delle micosi polmonari invasive nei pazienti con malattia da coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).  
Probabilmente bassa

**..... MA BISOGNA PENSARCI!!!**

La disponibilità di nuovi metodi diagnostici e di nuove molecole antifungine ha comportato nuove possibilità di diagnosi e terapia.

## Aspergillosi polmonare invasiva in COVID 19

*Ipotesi saggiata e confermata in diverse occasioni ma la % esatta ad oggi non è nota*



# Antimicogramma

Obiettivo ambizioso :

- guidare il clinico nella scelta del protocollo terapeutico più adeguato
- dare informazioni sull'identificazione di specie
- fornire allarmi circa l'insorgenza di resistenze anomale il più precocemente possibile
- fornire dati epidemiologici utili alla gestione della terapia empirica

## Eucast .....Cenni storici.

**EUCAST AFST (European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing)** : Organismo originatosi nel 1997 con l'iniziale intento di armonizzare i breakpoints utilizzati nei diversi Paesi europei.

Istituito da ESCMID ((European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases) e dai comitati nazionali esistenti in Europa che ne finanziano l'attività insieme all'Unione Europea e ad altri Organismi sovranazionali

**Tabella 1.** I sei comitati nazionali per i *breakpoints* già esistenti in Europa prima dell'istituzione di EUCAST.

<b>Comitati</b>	<b>Paese</b>
<b>BSAC</b> (British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy)	Regno Unito
<b>CA-SFM</b> (Comité de l'Antibiogramme de la Société Française de Microbiologie)	Francia
<b>CRG</b> (Commissie Richtlijnen Gevoeligheidsbepalingen)	Olanda
<b>DIN</b> (Deutsches Institut für Normung)	Germania
<b>NWGA</b> (Norwegian Working Group on Antimicrobials)	Norvegia
<b>SRGA</b> (Swedish Reference Group of Antibiotics)	Svezia

...Eucast storia

In altri Paesi, e tra questi anche l'Italia, ci si è sempre affidati fino a pochi anni fa all'americano **CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute)**, versione recente del **NCCLS (National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards)**.

**Tabella 3.** Principali differenze tra EUCAST e CLSI.

<b>EUCAST</b>	<b>CLSI</b>
Fondato da ESCMID, ECDC e dai comitati nazionali per i <i>breakpoints</i>	Fondato dall'industria
I comitati sono rappresentativi dei comitati nazionali e delle diverse professionalità	I comitati sono costituiti da membri che provengono dalle professioni, dall'industria, dal mondo scientifico e dalle autorità di controllo
→ L'industria ha un ruolo di consulenza	L'industria influenza in modo sostanziale il livello decisionale
Le decisioni dei comitati sono assunte per <i>consensus</i>	Le decisioni sono assunte tramite voto a maggioranza
EUCAST è considerato ufficialmente il comitato per i <i>breakpoint</i> dell'EMA	FDA determina i <i>breakpoints</i>
→ EUCAST definisce i <i>breakpoints</i> clinici e i cut-off epidemiologici	CLSI definisce i <i>breakpoints</i> clinici
EUCAST prevede una revisione sistematica dei <i>breakpoints</i>	CLSI non prevede una revisione sistematica dei <i>breakpoints</i>
EUCAST prevede 5 <i>meetings</i> annuali	CLSI prevede 2 <i>meetings</i> annuali
→ Tutti i documenti sui razionali e sulle decisioni clinico-sperimentali sono disponibili <i>online</i>	I documenti sui razionali e sulle decisioni clinico-sperimentali non sono disponibili
→ Tutta la documentazione prodotta è disponibile e gratuita	Tutta la documentazione prodotta è a pagamento

## Eucast principali obiettivi:

1. Raggiungere un modo uniforme di valutare i livelli dei breakpoints clinici, e con essi il livello di sensibilità ai farmaci antimicrobici.
2. Creare un network di professionisti nel campo dell'infettivologia e dell'industria del farmaco e dei diagnostici in grado di lavorare in modo univoco
3. **Promuovere** la diffusione di linee guida e documenti per la **standardizzazione dei metodi** per l'esecuzione e l'interpretazione dei test di sensibilità, lavorando d'intesa con gli organismi al di fuori dell'Europa, come ad esempio il CLSI.

## IN EUROPA

EUCAST - EMEA (European Medicines Agency)

## IN AMERICA

CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute) - FDA (Food and Drug Administration)

## Vera novità di EUCAST rispetto a CLSI

### Due Breakpoint clinici (sistema SIR):

- Breakpoint della sensibilità divide i ceppi sensibili (S) da quelli intermedi (I)
- Breakpoint della resistenza divide i ceppi intermedi (I) da quelli resistenti (R)

### Un Cut-off epidemiologico ECOFF (Epidemiological Cut- Off) :

- divide i ceppi *wild-type* (WT) da quelli *non-wild-type* (NWT)

ATU: area di incertezza tecnica



## EUCAST-CLSI

Differenze anche analitiche ed interpretative per i lieviti:

Il sottocomitato EUCAST sui test di suscettibilità antifungina ha pubblicato degli standard per determinare la suscettibilità del lievito fermentativo agli antimicrobici....

.....ma per questo chiedo lumi ai microbiologi!

# www.eucast.org

The screenshot shows the EUCAST website homepage. At the top, there is a browser window with the address bar showing 'eucast.org'. The main header features the EUCAST logo (a stylized 'X' shape) and the text 'EUCAST EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING' and 'European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header, there is a navigation menu on the left with links to various sections: Organization, Consultations, EUCAST News, New definitions of S, I and R, Clinical breakpoints and dosing, Rapid AST in blood cultures, Expert rules and intrinsic resistance, Resistance mechanisms, SOPs and Guidance documents, MIC and zone distributions and ECOFFs, AST of bacteria, AST of mycobacteria, AST of fungi, AST of veterinary pathogens, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Meetings, Publications and documents, and Presentations and statistics. A large image of a laboratory tray with many small wells is displayed in the center. To the right of the image, there is a 'QUICK NAVIGATION' dropdown menu. Below the image, the main content area features a section titled 'The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - EUCAST'. This section includes a paragraph describing EUCAST as a standing committee jointly organized by ESCMID, ECDC and European national breakpoint committees, and another paragraph mentioning the passing of Johan Mouton. A 'EUCAST News' sidebar on the right lists recent news items: 'Dosing in children' (24 Feb 2021), 'New and updated Rational Documents published' (08 Feb 2021), 'EUCAST online seminars - new titles for 2021' (03 Feb 2021), 'EUCAST news January 2021' (31 Jan 2021), and 'Website statistics updated' (20 Jan 2021). At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a link to 'About Newsfeeds'.

Organization

Consultations

EUCAST News

New definitions of S, I and R

Clinical breakpoints and dosing

Rapid AST in blood cultures

Expert rules and intrinsic resistance

Resistance mechanisms

SOPs and Guidance documents

MIC and zone distributions and ECOFFs

AST of bacteria

AST of mycobacteria

AST of fungi

AST of veterinary pathogens

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Meetings

Publications and documents

Presentations and statistics

search term

QUICK NAVIGATION

## The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - EUCAST

EUCAST is a standing committee jointly organized by ESCMID, ECDC and European national breakpoint committees. EUCAST was formed in 1997. It has been chaired by Ian Phillips (1997 - 2001), Gunnar Kahlmeter (2001 - 2012), Rafael Canton (2012 - 2016) and Christian Giske (2016 - ). Its scientific secretary is Derek Brown (1997 - 2016) and John Turnidge (2016 - ). Its webmaster is Gunnar Kahlmeter (2001 - ). From 2016, Rafael Canton is the Clinical Data Co-ordinator and from 2012, Gunnar Kahlmeter is the Technical Data Co-ordinator and Head of the EUCAST Development Laboratory.

Since the very beginning, Johan Mouton, was important to EUCAST in that he was an ardent supporter of European harmonisation and of bringing PKPD to bear on breakpoint setting. Johan died in the evening of Tuesday 9 July, 2019. The Steering Committee meeting 8 - 9 of July was the only meeting since 2002 to which Johan could not travel. We shall miss Johan for his courage and his passion for getting it right! Some of our memories of Johan are on the [ESCMID website](#).

EUCAST online seminars. There are currently no planned online webinars.

### EUCAST News

24 Feb 2021  
**Dosing in children**

08 Feb 2021  
**New and updated Rational Documents published**




03 Feb 2021  
**EUCAST online seminars - new titles for 2021**

31 Jan 2021  
**EUCAST news January 2021**





20 Jan 2021  
**Website statistics updated**


➔ About Newsfeeds

Browser window showing the EUCAST website (eucast.org). The page content includes:

- Left sidebar (teal background):**
  - AST of mycobacteria
  - AST of fungi
  - AST of veterinary pathogens
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
  - Meetings
  - Publications and documents
  - Presentations and statistics
  - Videos and online seminars
  - Warnings!
  - Translations
  - Information for industry
  - Links and Contacts
  - Website changes
- Main content area:**
  - Turnidge (2016 - ). Its webmaster is Gunnar Kahlmeter (2001 - ). From 2016, Rafael Canton is the Clinical Data Co-ordinator and from 2012, Gunnar Kahlmeter is the Technical Data Co-ordinator and Head of the EUCAST Development Laboratory.
  - Since the very beginning, Johan Mouton, was important to EUCAST in that he was an ardent supporter of European harmonisation and of bringing PKPD to bear on breakpoint setting. Johan died in the evening of Tuesday 9 July, 2019. The Steering Committee meeting 8 - 9 of July was the only meeting since 2002 to which Johan could not travel. We shall miss Johan for his courage and his passion for getting it right! Some of our memories of Johan are on the [ESCMD website](#).
  - EUCAST online seminars.** There are currently no planned online webinars.
  - The EUCAST Development Laboratory for **antibacterial agents** is located in Sweden and can be addressed through [gunnar.kahlmeter@eucast.org](mailto:gunnar.kahlmeter@eucast.org) or [erika.matuschek@eucast.org](mailto:erika.matuschek@eucast.org).
  - The EUCAST Development Laboratory for **antifungal agents** is located in Denmark and can be addressed through [maca\[at\]ssi.dk](mailto:maca[at]ssi.dk).
  - For EUCAST **subcommittees** - [see page Subcommittees](#).
  - EUCAST deals with breakpoints and technical aspects of phenotypic in vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing and functions as the breakpoint committee of EMA and ECDC. EUCAST does not deal with antibiotic policies, surveillance or containment of resistance or infection control. The Steering Committee is the decision making body. It is supported by a General Committee with representatives from European and other countries.
  - Consultation!** The EUCAST consultation process is publicly available on the EUCAST website. All major decisions are subject to 4 - 12 weeks of [consultation](#).
  - Warnings!** Users of EUCAST guidelines are encouraged to make EUCAST aware of malfunctioning AST material and devices. Investigations into such reports sometimes result in an official EUCAST Warning which is then posted on the [EUCAST Warnings](#) website.
  - Since 2019, all European countries are on European guidelines and from 2020, ECDC will only accept "data for surveillance purposes" generated by laboratories on EUCAST breakpoints and methods.
  - Many countries outside Europe have also decided to follow EUCAST guidance.
- Right sidebar (teal background):**
  - EUCAST online seminars - new titles for 2021**
  - 31 Jan 2021  
**EUCAST news January 2021**
  - 20 Jan 2021  
**Website statistics updated**
  - ➔ About Newsfeeds
  -  **ESCMID** EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES
  -  **EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY**  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH
  -  **ecdc** EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility  
Testing  
Breakpoint tables for interpretation of MICs for antifungal  
agents  
Version 10.0, valid from 2020-02-04

Home Contact Sitemap Newsletter    

 **EUCAST** EUROPEAN COMMITTEE  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL  
SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

search term

## AST of fungi

Organization  
Consultations  
EUCAST News  
New definitions of S, I and R  
Clinical breakpoints and dosing  
Rapid AST in blood cultures  
Expert rules and intrinsic resistance  
Resistance mechanisms  
SOPs and Guidance documents  
MIC and zone distributions and ECOFFs  
AST of bacteria  
AST of mycobacteria  
**AST of fungi**  
Breakpoints for antifungals  
MIC distributions and ECOFFs  
Methods in antifungal susceptibility test  
QC AFST Tables  
Rationale documents for antifungals  
Publications in journals  
Meetings, Minutes and Reports  
Previous versions of documents  
AST of veterinary pathogens  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
Meetings  
Publications and documents  
Presentations and statistics  
Videos and online seminars  
Warnings  
Translations  
Information for industry  
Links and Contacts

20 March 2019

### Clinical breakpoints for fungi (Candida and Aspergillus species)

- Clinical breakpoints for fungi v. 10.0 (PDF file for printing) - valid from 4 February 2020; links updated Sept 2020.
- Clinical breakpoints for fungi v. 10.0 (Excel file for screen) - valid from 4 February 2020; links updated Sept 2020.
- Overview of antifungal ECOFFs and clinical breakpoints for yeasts and moulds - valid from 24 September, 2020.

Previous breakpoint tables

- Clinical breakpoints for fungi v 9.0 (pdf-file for printing) - valid from 12 February, 2018
- Clinical breakpoints for fungi v 9.0 (Excel file for screen) - valid from 12 February, 2018
- EUCAST guidance on 'What to do when there are no breakpoints'

The EUCAST AFST subcommittee is currently reviewing breakpoint tables to introduce necessary changes to match the new EUCAST definitions of S, I and R.

Website changes

© The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - EUCAST 2021 Contact Sitemap Privacy Statement Disclaimer

# European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

## Breakpoint tables for interpretation of MICs for antifungal agents

Version 10.0, valid from 2020-02-04

Content	Page
Notes	1
Guidance on reading EUCAST antifungal breakpoint tables	3
Information on technical uncertainty	4
Changes	5
<i>Candida</i> and <i>Cryptococcus</i> spp.	6
<i>Aspergillus</i> spp.	7
Dosages	8

This document should be cited as: "The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. Breakpoint tables for interpretation of MICs for antifungal agents, version 10.0, 2020.  
<http://www.eucast.org/astoffungi/clinicalbreakpointsforantifungals/>.



# European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

## Breakpoint tables for interpretation of MICs for antifungal agents

Version 10.0, valid from 2020-02-04

### Notes

1. The EUCAST tables of clinical breakpoints for antifungal agents contain clinical MIC breakpoints determined over the period **2007-2019**. The EUCAST breakpoint table version **10.0** includes corrected typographical errors, clarifications, breakpoints for new agents and/or organisms, and revised MIC breakpoints. Changes are best seen on screen or on a colour printout since cells containing a change are yellow.

2. Numbered footnotes relating to MIC breakpoints are listed in a column on the right of the spreadsheet or below the table.

3. Antifungal agents names in blue link to EUCAST rationale documents. MIC breakpoints in blue link to EUCAST MIC distributions.

4. The document is released as a protected Excel® file suitable for viewing on screen and as an Acrobat® pdf file for printing. To utilise all functions in the Excel® file, use Microsoft™ original programs only. The Excel® file enables users to alter the list of agents to suit the local range of agents tested locally. The content of single cells cannot be changed. Hide lines by right-clicking on the line number and choosing "hide". Hide columns by right-clicking on the column letter and choosing "hide". If you wish to add the intermediate columns for MICs right-click on the column letter and choose "insert". The intermediate values are inferred from the "S" and "R" breakpoints when not specified in the table.

5. EUCAST breakpoints are used to categorise results into three susceptibility categories:

**S - Susceptible, standard dosing regimen:** A microorganism is categorised as *Susceptible, standard dosing regimen*, when there is a high likelihood of therapeutic success using a standard dosing regimen of the agent.

**I - Susceptible, increased exposure:** A microorganism is categorised as *Susceptible, increased exposure* \* when there is a high likelihood of therapeutic success because exposure to the agent is increased by adjusting the dosing regimen or by its concentration at the site of infection.

**R - Resistant:** A microorganism is categorised as *Resistant* when there is a high likelihood of therapeutic failure even when there is increased exposure.

\*Exposure is a function of how the mode of administration, dose, dosing interval, infusion time, as well as distribution and excretion of the antimicrobial agent will influence the infecting organism at the site of infection.

6. For some organism-agent combinations, results may be in an area where the interpretation is uncertain. EUCAST has designated this an Area of Technical Uncertainty (ATU). It corresponds to an MIC value where the categorisation is doubtful. See separate page (Technical uncertainty) for more information on ATU and how to deal with results in the ATU.

7. In order to simplify the EUCAST tables, the I category is not listed. It is readily interpreted as the values between the S and the R breakpoint. For example, for MIC breakpoints listed as  $S \leq 1$  mg/L and  $R > 8$  mg/L, the I category is 2-8 (technically  $>1-8$ ) mg/L.

### Notes

8. By international convention MIC dilution series are based on twofold dilutions up and down from 1 mg/L. At dilutions below 0.25 mg/L, this leads to concentrations with multiple decimal places. To avoid having to use these in tables and documents, EUCAST has decided to use the following format (in bold): 0.125→**0.125**, 0.0625→**0.06**, 0.03125→**0.03**, 0.015625→**0.016**, 0.0078125→**0.008**, 0.00390625→**0.004** and 0.001953125→**0.002** mg/L.

"-" indicates that susceptibility testing is not recommended as the species is a poor target for therapy with the drug. Isolates may be reported as R without prior testing.

"IE" indicates that there is insufficient evidence that the species in question is a good target for therapy with the drug. An MIC with a comment but without an accompanying S, I or R categorisation may be reported.

NA = Not Applicable

IP = In Preparation

The I category is not listed but is interpreted as the values between the S and the R breakpoints. If the S and R breakpoints are the same value there is no I category.

Agent A: No I category  
 Agent B: I category: 4 mg/L  
 Agent G: I category: 1-2 mg/L

Antifungal agent	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)		
	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)		
	S ≤	R >	ATU
Antimicrobial agent A	1 <sup>1</sup>	1 <sup>1</sup>	
Antimicrobial agent B	2 <sup>2</sup>	4	
Antimicrobial agent C	IE	IE	
Antimicrobial agent D	-	-	
Antimicrobial agent E	IP	IP	
Antimicrobial agent F	NA	NA	
Antimicrobial agent G	0.5	2	
Antimicrobial agent H	0.001	1	

**Area of Technical Uncertainty**  
 See specific information on how to handle technical uncertainty in antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

Insufficient evidence that the organism or group is a good target for therapy with the agent

No breakpoints. Susceptibility testing is not recommended

Changes from previous version highlighted in yellow

In Preparation

Not Applicable

**Notes.** Numbered notes relate to general comments and/or MIC breakpoints  
 1. Notes that are general comments and/or relating to MIC breakpoints.  
 2. New comment  
 Removed comment

MIC breakpoints in blue are linked to MIC distributions

Antifungal agents in blue are linked to EUCAST rationale documents

An arbitrary "off scale" breakpoint which categorises wild-type organisms as "Susceptible - increased exposure"



# European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

## Breakpoint tables for interpretation of MICs for antifungal agents

Version 10.0, valid from 2020-02-04

### How to handle technical uncertainty in antimicrobial susceptibility testing

All measurements are affected by random variation and some by systematic variation. Systematic variation should be avoided and random variation reduced as much as possible. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST), irrespective of method, is no exception.

EUCAST strives to minimise variation by providing standardised methods for MIC determination and disk diffusion and by avoiding setting breakpoints which seriously affect the reproducibility of the test. Variation in AST can be further reduced by setting more stringent standards for manufacturers of AST material (growth medium and antifungals) and criteria for quality control of manufacturing processes and laboratory practices.

It is tempting to think that generating an MIC value will solve all problems. However, MIC measurements also have variation and a single value is not automatically correct. Even when using the reference method, MICs vary between days and technicians. Under the best of circumstances, an MIC of 1.0 should be considered as a value between 0.5 and 2.0 mg/L. Not infrequently, there are problems with commercial testing systems including broth microdilution tests, gradient tests and semi-automated AST devices.

Although AST in principle is straightforward for most agents and species, there are problematic areas. It is important to warn laboratories about these and the uncertainty of susceptibility categorisation. Analysis of EUCAST data that have been generated over the years has identified such situations, called **Areas of Technical Uncertainty (ATU)**. The ATUs are **warnings to laboratory staff** that there is an uncertainty that needs to be addressed before reporting AST results to clinical colleagues. The ATU is not to be conveyed to clinical colleagues except under special circumstances and only as part of a discussion about therapeutic alternatives in difficult cases.

Below are alternatives for how the ATUs can be dealt with by the laboratory. Which of these actions are chosen will depend on the situation. The type of sample (f.x. blood culture vs. mucosal culture), the number of alternative agents available, the severity of the disease, whether or not a consultation with clinical colleagues is feasible, will influence the action taken.

#### • Repeat the test

This is only relevant if there is reason to suspect a technical error in the primary AST.

#### • Use an alternative test (perform a genotypic test)

This may be relevant if the susceptibility report leaves only few therapeutic alternatives or if the result is deemed of importance. If the organism is multi-resistant, it is advisable to perform a genotypic characterization of the resistance mechanism to obtain more information (examples: *FKS* gene sequencing in *Candida* and *CYP51A* gene sequencing in *A. fumigatus*).

#### • Downgrade the susceptibility category

If there are other therapeutic alternatives in the AST report, it is permissible to downgrade the result (from S to I, or from I to R or from S to R). However, a comment should be included and the isolate saved for further testing.

#### • Upgrade the susceptibility category

If there are substantial evidence that the isolate will be clinically susceptible (for example in isolates with a one-step MIC elevation above the susceptibility breakpoint AND absence of *FKS* mutations in a *Candida* isolate with susceptible phenotype to alternative candins, or an *A. fumigatus* isolate with an MIC of 0.25 mg/L for posaconazole but susceptible to itraconazole) it is permissible to upgrade the result (from R to S, or from I to S). However, a comment should be included and the isolate saved for further testing. Such a comment could be: "based upon clinical experience the isolate will be clinically susceptible to drug x despite the one-step elevated MIC".

#### • Include the uncertainty as part of the report

It is common practice in many other laboratory settings to include information on the uncertainty of the reported result. This can be dealt with in several alternative ways:

\* For serious situations, take the opportunity to contact the clinical colleagues to explain and discuss the results.

\* Categorise the result according to the breakpoints but include information about the technical difficulties and/or the uncertainty of the interpretation. In many instances, a straight 'R' is less ambiguous than other alternatives, especially when there are alternative agents.

The Area of Technical Uncertainty will typically be listed as a defined MIC value. ATUs will only be listed when obviously needed. The absence of an ATU (MIC) means that there is no immediate need for a warning. The ATUs introduced in 2019 (v. 10.0) will be evaluated and ATUs may be added as more information develops.

[Link to the guidance material available on the EUCAST website.](#)



**Candida and Cryptococcus spp.**

**EUCAST Antifungal Clinical Breakpoint Table v. 10.0 valid from 2020-02-04**

MIC method (EUCAST standardised broth microdilution method)  
 Medium: RPM1640-2% glucose, MOPS buffer  
 Inoculum: Final  $0.5 \times 10^5$  –  $2.5 \times 10^7$  cfu/mL  
 Incubation: 18-24h  
 Reading: Spectrophotometric, complete (>90%) inhibition for amphotericin B but 50% growth inhibition for other compounds  
 Quality control: *C. parapsilosis* ATCC 22019 or *C. krusei* ATCC 6258

Antifungal agent	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)																		Comments on the I category	Comments on the ATU			
	<i>Candida albicans</i>			<i>Candida dubliniensis</i>		<i>Candida glabrata</i>		<i>Candida krusei</i>		<i>Candida parapsilosis</i>		<i>Candida tropicalis</i>		<i>Candida guilliermondii</i>		<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>		Non-species related breakpoints for <i>Candida</i> <sup>1</sup>					
	S ≤	R >	ATU	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	S ≤			R >		
<a href="#">Amphotericin B</a>	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	No data to support an I category according to the new definitions	
<a href="#">Anidulafungin</a>	0.03	0.03				0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	4	4	0.06	0.06	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	-	-	IE	IE				
<a href="#">Caspofungin</a>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>				Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	Note <sup>3</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	-	-	IE	IE				
<a href="#">Fluconazole</a>	2	4		2	4	0.001 <sup>4</sup>	16	-	-	2	4	2	4	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE	IE	2	4			See dosages table for appropriate dose	
<a href="#">Isavuconazole</a>	IE	IE		IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE				
<a href="#">Itraconazole</a>	0.06	0.06		0.06	0.06	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE	IE	IE	IE				
<a href="#">Micafungin</a>	0.016	0.016	0.03			0.03	0.03	IE <sup>5</sup>	IE <sup>5</sup>	2	2	IE <sup>5</sup>	IE <sup>5</sup>	IE <sup>5</sup>	IE <sup>5</sup>	-	-	IE	IE			If S to anidulafungin, report as S and add the following comment: "isolates susceptible to anidulafungin with micafungin MIC of 0.03 mg/L do not harbour an <i>fkS</i> mutation conferring resistance to the echinocandins". If not S to anidulafungin, report as R and refer to reference laboratory for <i>fkS</i> sequencing and confirmation of MICs.	
<a href="#">Posaconazole</a>	0.06	0.06		0.06	0.06	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE	IE	IE	IE				
<a href="#">Voriconazole<sup>6</sup></a>	0.06 <sup>7</sup>	0.25 <sup>7</sup>		0.06 <sup>7</sup>	0.25 <sup>7</sup>	IE	IE	IE	IE	0.125 <sup>7</sup>	0.25 <sup>7</sup>	0.125 <sup>7</sup>	0.25 <sup>7</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE	IE	IE	IE			4 mg/kg iv twice daily	

**Aspergillus spp.**

**EUCAST Antifungal Clinical Breakpoint Table v. 10.0 valid from 2020-02-04**

MIC method (EUCAST standardised broth microdilution method)  
 Medium: RPM1640-2% glucose, MOPS as buffer  
 Inoculum: Final 1x10<sup>5</sup> – 2.5x10<sup>5</sup> cfu/mL  
 Incubation: 48h  
 Reading: Visual, complete inhibition for amphotericin B and azoles (MIC), aberrant growth endpoint for echinocandins (MEC).  
 Quality control: *A. fumigatus* ATCC 204305, *A. flavus* ATCC 204304, *A. fumigatus* F 6919, *A. flavus* CM 1813, *C. parapsitosis* ATCC 22019 (read after 18-24 h) or *C. anusei* ATCC 6258 (read after 18-24 h).

Antifungal agent	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)															Comments on the I category	Comments on the ATU	
	<i>A. flavus</i>			<i>A. fumigatus</i>			<i>A. nidulans</i>			<i>A. niger</i>		<i>A. terreus</i>			Non-species related breakpoints <sup>1</sup>			
	S ≤	R >	ATU	S ≤	R >	ATU	S ≤	R >	ATU	S ≤	R >	S ≤	R >	ATU	S ≤			R >
<a href="#">Amphotericin B</a>	-	-		1	1		-	-		1	1	-	-		IE	IE	No data to support an "I" category according to the new definition of "I"	
<a href="#">Anidulafungin</a>	IE	IE		IE	IE		IE	IE		IE	IE	IE	IE		IE	IE		
<a href="#">Caspofungin</a>	IE	IE		IE	IE		IE	IE		IE	IE	IE	IE		IE	IE		
<a href="#">Fluconazole</a>	-	-		-	-		-	-		-	-	-	-		-	-		
<a href="#">Isavuconazole</a>	1	2	2	1	2	2	0.25	0.25		IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	1	1		IE	IE	Isavuconazole MIC = 2 mg/L should not be interpreted as I but only followed up as an ATU If voriconazole wild-type ( <i>A. flavus</i> : voriconazole MIC ≤2 mg/L; <i>A. fumigatus</i> : voriconazole MIC ≤1 mg/L) report as isavuconazole S and add the following comment: "The MIC of 2 mg/L is one dilution above the S breakpoint but within the wild-type isavuconazole MIC range due to a stringent breakpoint susceptibility breakpoint. See rationale documents for more information. If voriconazole non wild-type report as isavuconazole R and refer to reference laboratory for <i>CYP51A</i> sequencing and confirmation of MICs <sup>3</sup> ."	
<a href="#">Itraconazole<sup>4</sup></a>	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	IE <sup>2,5</sup>	IE <sup>2,5</sup>	1	1	2	IE <sup>5</sup>	IE <sup>5</sup>	Report as R with the following comment: "In some clinical situations (non-invasive infections forms) itraconazole can be used provided sufficient exposure is ensured".	
<a href="#">Micafungin</a>	IE	IE		IE	IE		IE	IE		IE	IE	IE	IE		IE	IE		
<a href="#">Posaconazole<sup>4</sup></a>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>		0.125	0.25	0.25	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>		IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	0.125	0.25	0.25	IE	IE	Posaconazole MIC = 0.25 mg/L should not be interpreted as I but only as ATU	If S to itraconazole report as S and add the following comment: "The MIC is 0.25 mg/L and thus one dilution above the S breakpoint due to overlapping wt and non-wt populations". If not S to itraconazole report as R and refer to reference laboratory for <i>CYP51A</i> sequencing and confirmation of MICs.
<a href="#">Voriconazole<sup>4</sup></a>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>		1	1	2	1	1	2	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>	IE <sup>2</sup>		IE	IE	Report as R with the following comment: "In some clinical situations (non-invasive infections forms) voriconazole can be used provided sufficient exposure is ensured".	

## Dosages

## EUCAST Antifungal Clinical Breakpoint Table v. 10.0 valid from 2020-02-04

EUCAST breakpoints are based on the following adult dosages (see section 8 in Rationale Documents), Alternative dosing regimens which result in equivalent exposure are acceptable. The table should not be considered an exhaustive guidance for dosing in clinical practice, and does not replace specific local, national, or regional dosing guidelines.

Note: duration of treatment only indicated for loading doses, because the total duration of therapy is not only dependent on the type and site of infection but also on the underlying disease of the patient. Please consult clinical management guidelines for recommendations on total duration.

Azoles	Standard dose	Increased Exposure Dose	Special situations
Fluconazole	800 mg x 1 for first day followed by 400 mg x 1 iv/oral (or 6 mg/kg)	800 mg x 1 iv/oral (or 12 mg/kg)	Indicated doses are those appropriate for invasive candidiasis Mucosal infections (Mending et al. Mycoses. 2012;55 Suppl 3:1-13): Standard doses is: 100-200 mg x 1 and increased dose 800 mg x 1 (for <i>C. glabrata</i> )
Itraconazole	200 mg x 2 for first day followed by 100*-400** mg iv/po Target trough level***: >0.5 mg/L for prophylaxis, >1 mg/L for therapy		*Superficial infections only **Daily doses up to 200 mg x 2 may be given depending on the infection. Capsules have 30% lower bioavailability than the oral solution ***HPLC assay method and Parent compound only.
Isavuconazole	200 mg x 3 for first 2 days followed by 200 mg x 1 iv/oral		
Posaconazole	Tablets/iv: 300 mg x 2 for first day followed by 300 mg x 1 Oral suspension: 200 mg x 4 for first day or 400 mg x 2 Target trough level: >0.7 mg/L for prophylaxis and >1.25 mg/L for therapy		
Voriconazole	6 mg/kg x 2 for first day followed by 4 mg/kg x 2 iv 400 mg x 2 for first day followed by 200 mg x 2 po Target trough level: >0.5 mg/L for prophylaxis, 2-5.5 mg/L for therapy	Candida: The I-category only applies for the iv dosage (not the standard oral dose)	Increased exposure can be achieved by elevated dosage (note non-linear kinetics in adults) or with a proton pump inhibitor, in patients with low blood levels.
<b>Amphotericin B formulations</b>	<b>Standard dose</b>	<b>Increased Exposure Dose</b>	<b>Special situations</b>
Liposomal amphotericin B	3 mg/kg x 1		Increased doses up to 7 mg/kg (or even 10 mg/kg e.g. <i>Mucorales</i> CNS infections) can be used in specific situations.
Amphotericin B deoxycholate	1 mg/kg x 1		
ABLC	5 mg/kg x1		
<b>Echinocandins</b>	<b>Standard dose</b>	<b>Increased Exposure Dose</b>	<b>Special situations</b>
Anidulafungin	200 mg x 1 for first day followed by 100 mg x 1		
Caspofungin	70 mg x 1 for first day followed by 50* mg x 1 (weight ≤ 80 kg) 70 mg x 1 (weight > 80 kg)		
Micafungin	100 mg x 1 (weight >40 kg) 2 mg/kg x 1 in patients weighing <40 kg	200 mg x 1 (weight >40 kg) 4 mg/kg x 1 in patients weighing <40 kg	Increased dose indicated in patients not responding to standard dose Standard dose for chronic aspergillosis is Micafungin 150 mg x 1 (Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis: rationale and clinical guidelines for diagnosis and management. Eur Resp J 2016)

...grazie