

Introduction

Fungal infections are commonly encountered in the hospitalized neonate . A number of well established risk factors associated with the development of fungemia are frequently found in this population, namely prematurity, low birth weight, hyperalimentation, administration of antibiotics and corticosteroids, the use of intravascular and urinary catheters and parenteral nutrition (Morello et al., 2002) .

Candida species is the third most frequent causal agent of late-onset sepsis and mortality in NICU (Makhoul et al., 2002).

Diagnosis of fungal infection is hampered by the non specificity of clinical symptoms and poor sensitivity of the serum inflammatory markers
(Benjamin et al., 2000) .

Extreme suspicion and early diagnosis are imperative because a late commencement of systemic antifungal treatment is a well documented cause of increased mortality (Benjamin et al., 2003) .

Aim of the work:

Assessment of the occurrence of fungal infection in neonates in NICU in Benha Children Hospital with searching for the risk factors and methods of early diagnosis of fungal infections and evaluation of the using prophylactic antifungal drugs in NICU .