

1 **Title:** Repurposing of ribavirin as an adjunct therapy against invasive *Candida* strains: *In*  
2 *vitro* study

3 **Running title:** *In vitro* ribavirin activity against *Candida* species.

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13 Abstract words count: **250**

14 Number of words: **3045**

15 Number of tables: **2**

16 Number of figures: **2**

17 Supplementary data: Table S1

18 Number of references: **35**

19 **Abstract**

20 The use of antifungal agents in clinical settings is limited by the appearance of drug resistance  
21 and adverse side effects. There is, therefore, an urgent need to develop new drugs to  
22 strengthen the treatment of invasive fungal diseases. The aim of this study is to describe the  
23 potential repurposing of ribavirin as an adjunct therapy against *Candida* spp.

24 Primary screening of Prestwick chemical library against *Candida albicans* ATCC 90028 and  
25 fluconazole-resistant *Candida albicans* was performed. Subsequently, we evaluated the  
26 response of 100 *Candida* spp strains to ribavirin, an antiviral agent, using the broth  
27 microdilution method as recommended by CLSI. We checked the involvement of efflux pump  
28 activity in the development of ribavirin-resistance. We studied time-kill curves and performed  
29 a checkerboard assay for ribavirin-antifungals combinations study.

30 Twenty-one nonstandard antifungal compounds were identified, including ribavirin. Ribavirin  
31 had, *in vitro*, an antifungal activity against 63 *Candida* strains including *C. albicans*, *C.*  
32 *parapsilosis* and *C. tropicalis*, with a minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) ranging  
33 from 0.37 to 3.02  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , while MICs for *C. krusei*, *C. glabrata*, *C. lusitaniae* and some *C.*  
34 *albicans* remain high ( $\geq 24.16 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ). No relation was observed between efflux pump activity  
35 and ribavirin-resistance. Ribavirin exhibited a fungistatic activity against multidrug-resistant  
36 (MDR) *C. albicans* and a fungicidal activity against *C. parapsilosis* strain. In addition,  
37 ribavirin acted synergistically with azoles against *Candida* strains for which ribavirin MICs  
38 were  $< 24.4 \mu\text{g/ml}$ .

39 This study highlights the potential clinical application of ribavirin, alone or in association  
40 with other antifungal agents, as an adjunct anti-*Candida* drug.

41 **Introduction**

42 Fungi are considered to be one of the main causes of human infections, particularly among  
43 immunocompromised individuals and hospitalized patients with serious immunosuppressive  
44 conditions such as HIV and organ transplantation (1). Infections due to *Candida* spp are one  
45 of the most common invasive fungal diseases (2). In a recent study, *Candida* spp were  
46 identified as the most frequent cause of bloodstream infection in hospitalized patients (3).  
47 Only three classes of antifungal agents are currently used to treat invasive *Candida* species  
48 infections, namely azoles, polyenes and echinocandins (4). Although these classes of  
49 antifungal agents are usually active against many fungal infections, their applicability and  
50 efficacy could be compromised due to their high toxicity, narrow spectrum of activity and the  
51 development of drug resistance (5). Hence, there is a constant need for other compounds that  
52 possess antifungal properties. An interesting thought in this field has been addressed via the  
53 drug repurposing, where FDA-approved drugs could be tested and used in another therapeutic  
54 class (6). Applying this approach by screening 1,920 compounds belonging to three FDA-  
55 libraries drugs against *Candida albicans* strains, Tournu *et al.*, recently identified, ribavirin, a  
56 purine nucleoside analog, as a potential *C. albicans* vacuole disrupting agent (7). Ribavirin is  
57 a guanosine analog that produces broad-spectrum activity against many RNA and DNA  
58 viruses. However, it is mainly used to treat hepatitis C virus (HCV) in combination with  
59 interferon- $\alpha$  (8). Here, we investigated the *in vitro* activity of ribavirin against different  
60 clinical *Candida* species, including emerging fluconazole-resistant *Candida albicans*. We also  
61 evaluated the eventual synergy between ribavirin and common antifungal agents.

## 62 Results and discussion

63 By testing the FDA-approved library of 1,280 drugs against *C. albicans* ATCC 90028  
64 (quality control) and *C. albicans* (Q181103513) that have high resistance to fluconazole and  
65 all echinocandin antifungal agents, 21 non-standard antifungal hits showed fungal growth  
66 inhibition greater than 90%. These primary compounds include 7 antibacterial drugs, 3  
67 antihelmintic agents and 11 compounds belonging to different therapeutic classes (Table 1).

68 The principal aim of our study is to identify new molecules whose antifungal action is not  
69 known and/or well investigated and which can be used in clinical practices without any  
70 constraints for patients. Among these 21 hits obtained, 14 of them have already been well  
71 identified and studied in previous works (Table 1), confirming the validity and the  
72 reproducibility of our results and our screening technique. However, to our knowledge, the  
73 fungal growth inhibition induced by the remaining 7 compounds including pinaverium  
74 bromide, avermectin B1, triclabendazole, tetraethylenepentamine pentahydrochloride,  
75 thioguanine, and anthralin, has never been previously reported neither well studied as well as  
76 the ribavirin compound (Table 1).

77 Among these unknown antifungal hits, we focused our study on ribavirin drug for several  
78 purposes; (i) it presents a percentage of fungal growth reduction equal to 96%. (ii) Ribavirin  
79 has been shown to disrupt vacuolar function in the pathogen *C. albicans* (7), however, no  
80 report describes directly its antifungal efficacy (i.e. MICs, fungicidal or fungistatic activity,  
81 synergy with antifungals ...). (iii) Most of these 7 hits have been designed for a specific non-  
82 infectious indication (antispastic, antilipemic, antineoplastic, antipsoriatic) (Table 1) whereas  
83 ribavirin was approved to treat liver infectious disease (9), so its repurposing as an antifungal  
84 agent could be admissible. (iv) Reversible hemolytic anemia is the unique adverse effect  
85 observed with ribavirin treatment, unlike the cytotoxic effect that of other molecules, such as

86 thioguanine and avermectin B1, may have on human cells due to their non-selective activities  
87 (10, 11). (v) Ribavirin can be administered orally (capsule or tablet), intravenously and  
88 through inhalation (9), while the topical application is only possible for some molecules such  
89 as anthralin (12).

90 That is why, in this study, ribavirin susceptibility testing against a large panel of 100 *Candida*  
91 spp strains was performed, and ribavirin MICs were determined. Consequently, we report here  
92 the efficacy of this compound against a collection of 60 *Candida* spp strains (total No = 100  
93 strains), including 6 *C. parapsilosis*, 5 *C. tropicalis*, and 49 *C. albicans*, with MIC ranging  
94 from 1.56 to 12.5  $\mu\text{M}$  (i.e. 0.37 to 3.02  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ). Among these 60 clinical strains tested, *C.*  
95 *parapsilosis* and *C. tropicalis* showed the greatest susceptibility to ribavirin with MICs  
96 mainly  $\leq 3.02 \mu\text{M}$  (i.e.  $\leq 0.75 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ). Interestingly, ribavirin was effective against the clinical  
97 strain that was resistant to both fluconazole and echinocandin agents (*C. albicans*  
98 Q181103513), with a low MIC equal to 6.25  $\mu\text{M}$  (i.e. 1.51  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ). On the other hand, the  
99 ribavirin MICs obtained against *C. krusei*, *C. lusitaniae*, *C. auris*, and *C. glabrata* were  
100 mainly  $\geq 100 \mu\text{M}$  (i.e.  $\geq 24.16 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ) (Fig 1).

101 In order to study fungicidal and fungistatic activities of ribavirin compound, time-kill curves  
102 were performed with *C. albicans* and *C. parapsilosis*. Ribavirin exhibited fungistatic activity  
103 against MDR *C. albicans* and *C. albicans* ATCC 90028 strains tested. At ribavirin  
104 concentrations equal to 0.5 X MIC, no inhibitory effect was observed and the curve was  
105 nearly identical to those for the control. At concentrations  $\geq 1 \text{ X MIC}$ , a concentration-  
106 independent fungistatic effect was observed. In contrast, ribavirin fungicidal activity against  
107 *C. parapsilosis* was noted with Minimal Fungicidal Concentration (MFC)  $\geq$  to two-fold its  
108 MIC value ( MFC = 3.12  $\mu\text{M}$ ; i.e. 1.5  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) (Fig 2).

109 Ribavirin is part of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, as an effective and safe drug  
110 used in a health system. Ribavirin is administered orally at a dose of 1,200 mg (600 mg twice  
111 a day) during 4 weeks to achieve a stable plasmatic concentration of 2.2 µg/ml (9). A  
112 retrospective study performed by J.F. Jen *et al*, on patients infected with the HCV, showed  
113 that 49% of the sustained virological response was achieved at week 4 via ribavirin plasmatic  
114 concentrations that ranged from 3.5 to 4 µg/ml. In addition, the authors preconized the  
115 achieving of higher ribavirin plasmatic concentrations in the treatment of a patient infected  
116 with HCV genotype 1 (13). Moreover, a prospective open-label study in patients infected with  
117 HCV genotype 1, demonstrated that the increase in the ribavirin treatment dose (maximum  
118 daily dose of 3,600 mg) resulted in ribavirin plasmatic concentrations of 5.37 µg/ml. In this  
119 case, undetectable HCV RNA on 9/10 patients during the fourth week was obtained but  
120 associated with more frequent side effects, such as anemia (14). Thus, plasma concentrations  
121 equal to the MICs obtained from most of the *Candida* spp strains tested in this study can be  
122 easily achieved. The main side effect of ribavirin treatment is reversible hemolytic anemia  
123 that may be observed in patients with chronic hepatitis C (15). The use of this drug for a short  
124 time therapy, along with the use of hematopoietic growth factors, can manage the risk of  
125 severe anemia in maintaining an effective concentration.

126 Nonetheless, some *Candida* strains were resistant to ribavirin, including some *C. albicans*  
127 strains and all the tested *C. glabrata*, *C. krusei* and *C. lusitania* strains. Among the many drug  
128 resistance mechanisms that have been described in yeast, one specific or non-specific  
129 mechanism is the overexpression of membrane-associated carriers acting as drug efflux  
130 pumps (16). Thus, we supposed that reduced permeability of the membrane to ribavirin drug  
131 and the potential role of efflux pumps in the extrusion of ribavirin molecule can be the  
132 mechanism which explains the ribavirin-resistance. That is why we checked the efflux-pumps  
133 activity using CCCP (carbonyl cyanide 3-chloro-phenylhydrazone) nonspecific efflux-pumps

134 inhibitor (EPI) and the specific calcium channel-blocker; verapamil against ribavirin-resistant  
135 strains. The activity of ribavirin did not change with the addition of CCCP or verapamil. No  
136 changes were reported in the ribavirin MICs of all strains tested after EPIs treatment, which  
137 could indicate the potential normal transport of ribavirin in the isolates tested, although we  
138 did not quantify the intracellular level of ribavirin. This result leads us to the possibility of the  
139 existence of a specific pathway that could induce the development of ribavirin resistance in  
140 yeasts.

141 Mutation frequencies of *C. albicans* ATCC on RPMI medium containing 1.52, 3.04, 6.08  
142  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ribavirin were  $1.5 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $9.2 \times 10^{-4}$  respectively. Mutation frequencies of *C.*  
143 *albicans* (Q181103513) on RPMI-agar plates with 3.04, 6.08 and 12.16  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ribavirin  
144 were  $1.6 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $9.8 \times 10^{-4}$  respectively. The mutation frequency was approximately  
145 about  $10^{-4}$  which is relatively higher than that reported for classical antifungals (17). This  
146 result indicates that it is preferable to use ribavirin for a short time or in association with other  
147 antimicrobial drugs. Therefore, in addition to the discovery of new agents effective against  
148 fungi, a pragmatic alternative would be to improve the activity of old antifungal agents by  
149 using a combination of drugs. Thus, testing the *in vitro* ribavirin-antifungals combinations  
150 could be very useful to increase the antimicrobial spectrum of the usual antifungals used and  
151 to minimize the development of drug resistance and side effects by reducing the drug  
152 concentration.

153 Investigations for potential *in vitro* synergy between ribavirin and antifungal agents were  
154 tested against *Candida* strains which are resistant to any of azoles (fluconazole (No = 6  
155 strains), itraconazole (No = 9 strains), posaconazole (No = 19 strains) and/or flucytosine (No  
156 = 11 strains) (Table 2). The combination of ribavirin and fluconazole was evaluated in 6  
157 fluconazole-resistant *Candida. spp* strains (5 *C. glabrata* and one MDR *C. albicans*) (Table  
158 2). Interestingly, a significant synergism (Fractional Inhibitory Concentration Index (FICI) =



159 0.12) was demonstrated against the MDR *C. albicans* strain (Q181103513), since this  
160 combination has lowered the MICs of fluconazole and ribavirin from 256 µg/ml and 1.5  
161 µg/ml to 1 µg/ml and 0.18 µg/ml, respectively. However, this combination (i.e. ribavirin with  
162 fluconazole) was only synergistic for one *C. glabrata* strain and was indifferent to the  
163 remaining 4 strains. It is worthy to note that these latter strains have initially high ribavirin  
164 MICs (MICs  $\geq$ 24.4 µg/ml) (Table 2). When ribavirin was combined with itraconazole and  
165 tested against 9 itraconazole-resistant strains, synergistic activities were observed for the two  
166 *C. albicans* strains tested, while indifferent activities were noted for most *C. glabrata* strains  
167 (5/7) analyzed in this study (Table 2). Furthermore, in ribavirin-posaconazole combinations,  
168 the highest rates of synergy were observed for *C. albicans* strains (7/9; 78%) and for *C.*  
169 *tropicalis* (2/2; 100%) (Table 2), but not for *C. glabrata* strains (1/7) and for *C. krusei* (0/1). It  
170 is worth mentioning again that ribavirin-azole association was mainly synergistic against  
171 *Candida* strains that have ribavirin MICs < 24.4 µg/ml. Synergy was not seen with ribavirin  
172 in combination with flucytosine against any of the *Candida* spp strains tested in this study (11  
173 strains; Table 2). This could be explained by the fact that both molecules (i.e. ribavirin and  
174 flucytosine) belong to the same therapeutic class of nucleoside analogues which can disturb  
175 the DNA synthesis of a given microorganism. Finally, none of the tested combinations was  
176 found antagonism against *Candida* strains.

177 Mechanisms of action of ribavirin on the HCV have been correctly elucidated, where four  
178 pathways were described; (i) inhibition of HCV replication (RNA polymerase), (ii) inhibition  
179 of IMPDH enzyme, (iii) induction of RNA mutagenesis and (iv) adaptation of immune  
180 response to the HCV(9). In contrast, the mechanism of ribavirin action on *Candida* species  
181 remains unclear. Thus, the most important perspective of this study will be the  
182 characterization of the mode of action of ribavirin against *Candida* species.



183 Our findings demonstrate that ribavirin exhibit antifungal activities against *Candida* species  
184 especially against *C. albicans*, *C. parapsilosis* and *C. tropicalis*. Its efficacy against MDR *C.*  
185 *albicans* could be a promising alternative strategy for the treatment of invasive fungal  
186 infections. Nonetheless, the ribavirin MICs of some *Candida* strains (especially those  
187 belonging to *C. glabrata*, *C. krusei* and *C. lusitaniae*) remain higher than the achievable  
188 plasmatic concentration in human. This latter phenomenon of high MICs is not associated  
189 with the overexpression of efflux pump's activity. Finally, ribavirin has synergistic activities  
190 with either fluconazole, itraconazole or posaconazole, but do not have with flucytosine,  
191 against particularly *Candida* strains whose ribavirin MICs are < 24.4 µg/ml. Consequently, *in*  
192 *vivo* activities of ribavirin need further investigation in order to introduce ribavirin as an  
193 antifungal agent, alone or in association with other antifungals, in clinical mycology practice.

#### 194 **Materials and methods**

##### 195 ***Screening of 1280 FDA-approved drugs against C. albicans***

196 Using the same concept of drugs-repurposing, an initial FDA-approved library of 1,280 drugs  
197 (Prestwick, Illkirch graffenstaden, France) (18) screen was performed against *Candida*  
198 *albicans* ATCC 90028 (quality control) and clinical *Candida albicans* strain, which is  
199 resistant to fluconazole and all echinocandins agents at a fixed concentration of 10 µM. This  
200 concentration was chosen according to previous screening studies in order to select "hits"  
201 which present antifungal activities at low concentrations (i.e. avoiding the toxicity and  
202 adverse effect of tested drugs at high concentrations). The fungal inoculum was prepared  
203 using RPMI-1640 medium (Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, France) according to the Clinical and  
204 Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI M27-A2, Vol 22, NO.15) protocol. Sixteen of 96-well  
205 plates were used. Each plate contains 80 compounds, the first column served for the positive  
206 control with untreated fungi and the last one contains the medium as a negative control. The

207 plates were incubated 24 hours at 37°C. Then, the optical density (OD) was obtained using a  
208 spectrophotometer and the percentages of fungal growth inhibition were calculated in relation  
209 to the untreated wells.

### 210 ***Fungal strains***

211 A collection of 96 *Candida* spp strains was tested, including 72 *C. albicans*, 5 *Candida*  
212 *parapsilosis*, 8 *Candida glabrata*, 5 *Candida tropicalis*, 3 *Candida krusei* and 3 *Candida*  
213 *lusitaniae* strains with different antifungal susceptibilities (Table S1). The species of all  
214 isolates were identified using Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry  
215 (MALDI-TOF MS) (19). All strains were recovered from La Timone University Hospital in  
216 Marseille and were isolated from different clinical samples, mainly from blood culture, urine  
217 and vaginal swabs (Supplementary Table 1). *C. albicans* ATCC 90028, *C. parapsilosis* ATCC  
218 22019, *C. auris* DSMZ 21092 and *C. krusei* ATCC 6258 were used as quality control (Table  
219 S1).

### 220 ***Antifungals susceptibility testing***

221 Antifungal susceptibility testing was performed using commercial broth microdilution plates;  
222 Sensititre®YeastOne® (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Schwerte, Germany) containing 9  
223 antifungals belonging to the 4 therapeutic classes, namely polyene (amphotericin B), azoles  
224 (fluconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole and itraconazole), echinocandin (anidulafungin,  
225 caspofungin and micafungin) and 5-flucytosine. The minimum inhibitory concentrations  
226 (MICs) obtained for *Candida* spp strains tested (Table S1) were compared to the breakpoints  
227 provided by the manufacturers or, to the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)  
228 cut-offs (CLSI M27-A2, Vol 22, NO.15), to assess the susceptibility of each strain to the  
229 different antifungal agents tested.

### 230 ***Ribavirin susceptibility testing***

231 Using the broth microdilution method as outlined by the CLSI, ribavirin MICs were  
232 performed. First, ribavirin powder (Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, France) was dissolved in water  
233 to obtain a stock solution at a concentration of 10 mg/ml. Then, the ribavirin stock solution  
234 was diluted in RPMI-1640 broth medium (Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, France) to obtain a  
235 concentration of 200  $\mu$ M (i.e. 48.32  $\mu$ g/ml); twofold more concentrated than the starting  
236 concentration. Fungal suspensions at 0.5 MacFarland were prepared and working yeast  
237 suspensions were obtained by a 1:100 dilution followed by a 1:20 dilution of the initial  
238 suspension in RPMI broth medium. Further, serial ribavirin dilutions (twofold dilutions)  
239 ranging from 100 to 0.2  $\mu$ M (i.e. 24.16 to 0.047  $\mu$ g/ml) were tested by inoculating 100  $\mu$ l of  
240 ribavirin-containing well at the appropriate concentration, with 100  $\mu$ l of final fungal  
241 suspension. Ribavirin concentration which is achievable in human plasma without toxic  
242 effects ( $\approx$  6  $\mu$ g/ml) was considered to establish the concentration ranges used in the two-fold  
243 dilution testing. The MIC of ribavirin was defined as the concentration that resulted in  
244 complete growth inhibition compared to untreated control wells. This later was determined  
245 visually after 24 hours of incubations at 37°C and using OD by spectrophotometric  
246 measurement.

#### 247 ***Time-kill assay***

248 In order to assess the fungicidal or fungistatic activity of ribavirin compound against three  
249 fungal strains (2 *C. albicans* and 1 *C. parapsilosis*), ribavirin time-kill analysis was performed  
250 as previously described (20); (*C. albicans* ATCC 90028 was used as quality control). The  
251 ribavirin action was investigated at 4 different concentrations (0.5xMIC, 1xMIC, 2xMIC,  
252 4xMIC) and the fungal growth was followed-up by the CFU/ml number after 2, 6, 12, 24, 36,  
253 48 hours of incubation at 37°C. The results were analyzed using the GraphPad Prism 5.3  
254 software (GraphPad Inc., San Diego, CA, USA).

255 ***Testing of efflux-pumps activity***

256 The implication of efflux-pumps in ribavirin resistance mechanism in some ribavirin-resistant  
257 *Candida* spp strains (2 *C. glabrata*, 1 *C. krusei*, 1 *C. lusitaniae*, 1 *C. albicans*) was verified  
258 using CCCP (carbonyl cyanide 3-chloro-phenylhydrazone) and verapamil inhibitors, which  
259 decrease the MICs when resistance was correlated to this mechanism (21). The CCCP and  
260 verapamil inhibitors were tested at two final concentrations (0.5 µg/ml, 10 µg/ml). To ensure  
261 that these concentrations do not affect yeast growth, control growth wells containing efflux-  
262 pumps inhibitors (EPIs) alone in RPMI medium were added. We determined ribavirin MICs  
263 for all strains before and after adding EPIs to the RPMI medium.

264 ***Mutant frequency***

265 The frequencies of spontaneous mutations were determined on *C. albicans* ATCC 90028 and  
266 multidrug-resistant (MDR)- *C. albicans* (Q181103513) by plating 100 µl of growing yeast  
267 with appropriate dilution (10<sup>3</sup> CFU) on ribavirin-free plates and without dilution (10<sup>5</sup> CFU) on  
268 ribavirin-containing plates (17). RPMI-1640 agar plates with different ribavirin  
269 concentrations (1xMIC, 2xMIC, 4xMIC) were prepared as previously described (22).  
270 Spontaneous mutation frequencies were calculated, after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C, by  
271 dividing the number of resistant colonies grown on a given plate by the initial inoculum  
272 pipetted. Mutant resistance phenotypes were confirmed by determining the ribavirin MICs of  
273 mutant colonies.

274 ***In vitro* interaction studies of ribavirin combination with antifungal drugs**

275 In order to exploit the potential for improved efficacy, reduced toxicity and reduced risk of  
276 drug resistance development (23), ribavirin-antifungal agent combinations were tested against  
277 29 *Candida* spp strains, including 12 *C. albicans* strains, 8 *C. glabrata* strains, 4 *C. tropicalis*  
278 strains, 1 *C. lusitaniae* strain and 4 *C. krusei* strains. Based on the checkerboard association

279 assay, combinations of ribavirin with each of the following antifungals: fluconazole,  
280 itraconazole, posaconazole, and flucytosine (Sigma Aldrich, St Louis, France) were tested.  
281 The effects of different combinations performed on different strains were analyzed using the  
282 Fractional Inhibitory Concentration Index (FICI) calculated as previously described (23) and  
283 interpreted as follows : if the FICI is  $\leq 0.5$ , then there is synergy between the tested  
284 antimicrobials; if it is  $>0.5$  but  $\leq 4$ , there is indifference or additivity between the tested  
285 antimicrobials, and if the FICI is  $>4$ , that means that there is an antagonism between the tested  
286 antimicrobials.

287 **Acknowledgments**

288 We thank CookieTrad for English reviewing.

289

290 **Funding information**

291 This work was supported by the French Government under the «Investissements d’avenir »

292 (Investments for the Future) program managed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche

293 (ANR, fr: National Agency for Research), (reference: Méditerranée Infection 10-IAHU-03)

294 This work was supported by Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur and European funding

295 FEDER PRIM

296 **Transparency declarations**

297 No conflict of interest or financial disclosure to declare for all authors.



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385 **Figures legends**

386 **Fig 1.** Distribution of ribavirin MICs for all clinical *Candida* spp strains tested in this study.

387 *C.parapsilosis* (brown), *C. glabrata* (green), *C. auris* (yellow), *C. albicans* (red), *C.*

388 *krusei* (blue), *C. lusitaniae* (black), *C. tropicalis* (grey), MICs – Minimum Inhibitory

389 Concentrations.

390 **Fig 2.** Values for Log<sub>10</sub> of number of CFU/mL versus time for *Candida* strains tested against

391 ribavirin; *C. albicans* Q181103513 (A), *C. albicans* ATCC 90028 (B) and *C. parapsilosis*

392 Q181208447 (C) at the following concentrations: control (■ filled square), 0.5XMIC (▲

393 triangle), 1XMIC (● circle), 2XMIC (◆ lozenge), 4XMIC (— line).

394 **Table 1.** Hits obtained by the primary screening of 1,280 FDA-approved drugs of Prestwick chemical library at 10  $\mu$ M against both *C. albicans*  
395 ATCC 90028 and fluconazole-resistant *C. albicans* (strain Q181103513).

Drug	Therapeutic class	Fungal growth inhibition (%)	References
Auranofin	Analgesic	99	26
Disulfiram	Antabuse effect	98	27
Pinaverium bromide	Antispastic	98	Unknown
Avermectin B1	Anthelmintic	98	Unknown
Pyrvinium pamoate	Anthelmintic	97	28
Triclabendazole	Anthelmintic	96	Unknown
Pentamidine isethionate	Antiprotozoal	96	29
Tetra ethylenepentamine pentahydrochloride	Antilipemic	94	Unknown
Ribavirin	Antiviral	96	7
Pentetic acid	Chelating/Radioprotectant	98	29
Thioguanosine	Antineoplastic	96	Unknown
Anthralin	Antipsoriatic	96	Unknown
Thonzonium bromide	Antiseptic	98	30
Clioquinol	Antiamebic/Antiseptic	98	7
Clotrimazole	Antibacterial	98	31
Chloroxine	Antibacterial	98	32
Chlorhexidine	Antibacterial/Antiseptic	98	32
Dequalinium dichloride	Antibacterial/Antiseptic	98	33
Methyl benzethonium chloride	Antibacterial	98	34
Benzethonium chloride	Antibacterial/Antiseptic	98	34
Ciclopirox ethanolamine	Antibacterial	97	35

396



397 **Table 2.** Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) and fractional inhibitory concentration indexes (FICI) for the combinations of ribavirin with  
398 antifungals.

<i>Candida</i> spp	Strains	FLU MIC	ITRA MIC	POSA MIC	5-FC MIC	RBV MIC	RBV-FLU FICI	RBV-ITRA FICI	RBV-POSA FICI	RBV-5-FC FICI
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181201614	8	8	1	<0.06	>24.4	ND	0.7 (I)	ND	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181198565	64	1	8	<0.06	>24.4	0.7 (I)	1 (I)	0.7 (I)	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181203672	128	1	>8	<0.06	>24.4	0.6 (I)	0.6 (I)	0.4 (S)	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181202903	16	4	8	0.06	>24.4	ND	0.7 (I)	1 (I)	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181255715	64	16	4	<0.06	>24.4	0.6 (I)	0.6 (I)	0.8 (I)	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181280604	4	0.25	0.5	<0.06	24.4	ND	ND	0.7 (I)	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	8070855959	128	16	8	<0.06	>24.4	0.6 (I)	0.1 (S)	2 (I)	ND
<i>C. glabrata</i>	Q181208658	128	16	8	<0.06	24.4	0.5 (S)	0.5 (S)	1 (I)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181103513	256	0.25	0.25	<0.06	1.52	0.12 (S)	ND	0.1 (S)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181198103	4	0.25	1	<0.06	3.05	ND	ND	0.2 (S)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181201380	0.5	0.06	0.03	>64	1.52	ND	ND	ND	1.5 (I)
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181203339	1	0.06	0.12	<0.06	>24.4	ND	ND	0.7 (I)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	490890568	1	0.5	0.25	0.5	3.05	ND	ND	0.4 (S)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181264539	0.25	0.12	0.06	>64	0.76	ND	ND	ND	1.2 (I)
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181252599	1	0.12	0.12	0.12	6.1	ND	ND	0.3 (S)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181253570	<0.012	0.03	0.15	0.12	>24.4	ND	ND	0.5 (S)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181211559	2	1	0.5	1	12.2	ND	0.4 (S)	0.6 (I)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181226987	0.25	0.06	0.03	64	6.1	ND	ND	ND	2 (I)
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181260978	2	1	0.5	0.5	12.2	ND	0.5 (S)	0.5 (S)	ND
<i>C. albicans</i>	Q181108884	16	0.5	0.5	1	1.52	ND	ND	0.3 (S)	ND
<i>C. krusei</i>	ATCC 6258	32	0.12	0.25	8	>24.4	ND	ND	0.6 (I)	ND
<i>C. krusei</i>	Q181262141	32	0.12	0.12	4	24.4	ND	ND	ND	0.8 (I)
<i>C. krusei</i>	Q181263662	16	0.12	0.12	2	12.2	ND	ND	ND	0.6 (I)
<i>C. krusei</i>	Q181208438	32	0.25	0.25	8	24.4	ND	ND	ND	0.6 (I)

<i>C. lusitanae</i>	Q181206420	0.5	0.12	0.03	32	>24.4	ND	ND	ND	0.7 (I)
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	Q181257439	1	0.12	0.12	64	0.76	ND	ND	0.4 (S)	0.7 (I)
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	Q181250041	1	0.12	0.06	64	1.52	ND	ND	ND	1 (I)
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	8070845333	2	0.12	0.12	>64	1.52	ND	ND	0.4 (S)	1.1 (I)
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	Q181203338	1	0.12	0.06	64	0.76	ND	ND	ND	1 (I)

399 Abbreviations: FLU, fluconazole; ITRA, itraconazole; POSA, posaconazole; 5-FC, flucytosine; RBV, ribavirin; S, synergy; I, indifference; ND,

400 not determined.



