EVALUATION OF A NEW CHROMOGENIC AGAR FOR IDENTIFICATION OF CANDIDA SPECIES INCLUDING CANDIDA AURIS
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Background
Candida auris is unlike other pathogenic Candida species in that it has been associated with hospital outbreaks around the world. In addition to being associated with higher morbidity and mortality than other pathogenic yeast, it has also proven to be difficult to identify.

Objective: To evaluate a new chromogenic medium that can identify and differentiate clinically significant Candida species including C. auris.

Methods
51 clinical yeast isolates plated to CHROMagar™ Candida Plus medium

Results
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Results Summary and Conclusions
• CHROMagar™ Candida Plus agar performs accurately in the identification and differentiation of common pathogenic Candida species including C. auris
  • 41/41 Candida species gave 100% concordance to expected colours per package insert
  • C. auris is easily differentiated from other Candida species including the closely related C. duobushaemulonii and C. haemulonii
  • Mauve/pink colonies were identified among multiple yeast species and require species confirmation by an alternate method
  • Candida guilliermondii produces a colony colour similar to C. tropicalis without a pink halo
  • Though not specifically studied here, this media may have utility for C. auris screening, mixed yeast cultures and yeast identification directly from clinical specimens.

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Other yeast species: no specified colours
Saccharomyces cerevisiae
Candida parapsilosis
Candida guilliermondii

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