

1 **An international evaluation of MIC distributions and ECV definition for *Fusarium* species**
2 **identified by molecular methods for the CLSI broth microdilution method**

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Abstract

CLSI epidemiological cutoff values (ECVs) of antifungal agents are available for various *Candida* spp., *Aspergillus* spp. and the Mucorales. However, those categorical endpoints have not been established for *Fusarium* spp., mostly due to the difficulties associated with collecting sufficient CLSI MICs for clinical isolates identified according to the currently recommended molecular DNA-PCR based identification methodologies. CLSI MIC distributions were established for 53 *Fusarium dimerum* species complex (SC), 10 *F. fujikuroi*, 82 *F. proliferatum*, 20 *F. incarnatum-equiseti* SC, 226 *F. oxysporum* SC, 608 *F. solani* SC, and 151 *F. verticillioides* isolates originating in 17 laboratories (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, Mexico and the United States). According to the CLSI guidelines for ECV definition, ECVs encompassing $\geq 97.5\%$ of pooled statistically modeled MIC populations were as follows: amphotericin B ECVs of 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. verticillioides*) and 8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. oxysporum* SC and *F. solani* SC); posaconazole ECVs of 2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. verticillioides*), 8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. oxysporum* SC), and 32 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. solani* SC); voriconazole ECVs of 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. verticillioides*), 16 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. oxysporum* SC) and 32 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. solani* SC); and itraconazole ECVs of 32 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. oxysporum* SC and *F. solani* SC). Insufficient data precluded ECV definition for the other species. Although these ECVs could aid in detecting non-WT isolates with reduced susceptibility to the agents evaluated, the relationship between molecular mechanisms of resistance (gene mutations) and MICs needs to be investigated for *Fusarium* spp.

Introduction

While the genus *Fusarium* and its teleomorphic (sexual) forms encompass a variety of species, only some have been associated with human disease. Identification of *Fusarium* isolates to the accepted phylogenetic species complexes/species level is essential (1-4) but challenging, as important taxonomic changes were made and is still in a state of flux for some genera. Following the results of DNA sequencing studies, prevalent well known fungal genera were divided into several new genera. By 2013, the consensus (International Code of Nomenclature for Algae) was to continue using certain well known generic names and that each fungal species should have only a single name, including those in the genus *Fusarium*. In addition, its well known anamorphs, as they have been used in the present paper, ought to be used instead of the known teleomorphs (e.g., *Haemonectria* and *Gibberella*) (1-3). However, the perception is that new generic changes would be suggested such as the establishment of the

69 genus *Bisifusarium* to include the more commonly known members of the *F. dimerum* SC and
70 the name *Neocosmospora solani* to replace *Fusarium solani* (5). The most frequent causes of
71 fungal infections are among the members of the three complexes, *F. solani* species complex
72 (SC), *F. oxysporum* SC, *F. (Giberella) fujikuroi* SC, which includes among others *F.*
73 *verticillioides* and *F. proliferatum*, and to a lesser extent both *F. dimerum* SC and *F. incarnatum-*
74 *equiseti* SC; their distribution could be region dependent (4,6-9). Common clinical presentations
75 among non-immunocompromised patients are onychomycosis, keratitis, allergic disease
76 (sinusitis and bronchopulmonary disease), and in the immunocompromised host (e.g.,
77 prolonged neutropenia and T-cell immunodeficiency) disseminated disease as well as other
78 severe invasive infections (1,4,6-12). Amphotericin B lipid formulations, voriconazole and
79 posaconazole, and to a lesser extent itraconazole, have been recommended or used for the
80 treatment and prophylaxis of *Fusarium* infections, in addition to surgical debridement and
81 reversal of immunosuppression (13-18). The survival rate is low with some reports suggesting
82 30% or less for fusariosis, especially among patients with persistent neutropenia (15-21). Most
83 successful therapeutic treatment of invasive disease is usually associated with neutrophil
84 recovery, a major factor in making the setting of clinical breakpoints so challenging. The new
85 formulations of itraconazole and posaconazole have improved bioavailability and reduced
86 variability in exposure among subjects (22,23). However, the efficacy of these formulations in
87 the treatment of fusariosis has not been established.

88 A reproducible procedure for testing the antifungal susceptibilities of *Fusarium* spp. is
89 described by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Subcommittee on Antifungal
90 Susceptibility Tests in the M38-A2 document (24). However, neither species-specific clinical
91 breakpoints (BPs) and/or epidemiological cutoff values (ECVs) have been established for this
92 fungal group. The main reason, as for other less prevalent fungal species, is the lack of both
93 clinical trials and knowledge regarding molecular resistance mechanisms for *Fusarium* spp. As
94 a consequence, information on the relationships between resistance mechanisms, low and high
95 MICs and clinical response to therapy is not available. However, it is still possible to define
96 ECVs. These are calculated based on MIC distributions (≥ 100 MICs/species/agent) from
97 multiple independent laboratories (≥ 3) (25,26, CLSI documents on ECVs under development).
98 ECVs can identify non-wild type (non-WT [often harboring molecular mechanisms of
99 resistance]) isolates or those isolates less susceptible to the antifungal agent being evaluated.
100 Although amphotericin B and triazole MIC data have been reported for a variety of *Fusarium*
101 spp., most available data are either for isolates identified only to the genus level, or by non-
102 molecular methods, or the number of isolates evaluated was small (2,4,27-30). Therefore, there

103 was the need to pool data from multiple laboratories in order to define ECVs for *Fusarium* spp.

104 The purpose of the present study was (i) to define WT-susceptibility endpoint MIC
105 distributions of the three most prevalent species/complexes (*F. oxysporum* SC, *F. solani* SC and
106 *F. verticillioides*) using aggregated CLSI M38-A2 broth microdilution MIC data originating from
107 16 of the 17 participant laboratories and (ii) to propose ECVs for amphotericin B, voriconazole,
108 posaconazole and itraconazole for these agents/species/complexes combinations for which the
109 number of isolates was ≥ 113 and originated from ≥ 7 independent laboratories. Amphotericin B,
110 voriconazole, posaconazole and itraconazole pooled MIC distributions comprising 10 to 82
111 isolates for less prevalent species/complexes (e.g., *F. dimerum* SC, *F. fujikuroi*, *F. incarnatum-*
112 *equiseti* SC, *F. proliferatum*) also were collated. We aggregated a total of 10 to 608 MICs
113 (species and antifungal agent dependent) as obtained in the 17 participant laboratories
114 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, Mexico, and the United States).

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116 Materials and Methods

117

118 **Isolates.** Each isolate was recovered from unique clinical specimens from patients with
119 mostly the following infections: eye, skin (some times both cutaneous, nail and other organ),
120 sinus, pulmonary, and invasive disease (blood, lymph nodes). Antifungal susceptibility testing
121 was performed according to the CLSI broth microdilution method (M38-A2) at the following
122 medical centers: VCU Medical Center, Richmond, VA; Hospital São Paulo, Escola Paulista de
123 Medicina-UNIFESP, São Paulo, Brazil; Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Infecciosas "Dr. C.
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136 Identification of the isolates was performed in each laboratory using conventional
137 methods (both macroscopic and microscopic characteristics on potato dextrose agar) (1,31) and
138 confirmed by DNA-PCR based molecular assays (e.g., mostly sequencing and amplification of
139 the β -tubulin (BenA), the translation elongation factor 1 α [TEF], or the largest subunit of RNA
140 polymerase [RPB1] and/or the second largest subunit of RNA polymerase [RPB2], as well as
141 the analysis of the internal transcribed spacer 1 [ITS1] and ITS2 regions (1,4,9,32,33). CLSI
142 MICs for each of the four agents were aggregated for 53 *F. dimerum* SC (including 1 *F.*
143 *delphinoides* isolate), 10 *F. fujikuroi*, 82 *F. proliferatum*, 20 *F. incarnatum-equiseti* SC, 226 *F.*
144 *oxysporum* SC, 608 *F. solani* SC (including 11 *F. falciforme* isolates), and 151 *F. verticillioides*
145 isolates originating from between 3 to 16 of the 17 independent laboratories (data shown in
146 Table 1). Additionally, insufficient MIC data (<10 isolates from 2 to 3 laboratories) were provided
147 for other members of the *F. fujikuroi* SC identified as *F. sacchari*, *F. subglutinans*, and *F.*
148 *thapsinum* (data not shown). Since molecular resistance mechanisms have not been elucidated
149 for *Fusarium* spp. and any antifungal agent, none of the isolates were evaluated for gene
150 mutations.

151 MIC data for at least one of the following three quality control (QC) isolates, *Candida*
152 *parapsilosis* ATCC 22019, *C. krusei* ATCC 6258 and *Paecilomyces variotii* ATCC MYA-3630
153 and/or the reference *Aspergillus flavus* ATCC 204304 isolate were reported by the participant
154 laboratories (24).

155 **Antifungal susceptibility testing.** MICs of amphotericin B and the three triazoles for
156 each available isolate in the total set (Tables 1 and 2) were obtained in each center by CLSI
157 broth microdilution method (standard RPMI-1640 broth [0.2% dextrose] and final inoculum
158 concentrations that ranged from 0.4×10^4 to 5×10^4 CFU/ml); MICs were the lowest drug
159 concentrations that produced complete growth inhibition (100%) at 48 h (24). MICs for the QC
160 *Candida* strains were obtained after 48 h using the 50% (triazoles) and 100% (amphotericin B)
161 growth inhibition criteria (24). These MICs were within the recommended MIC limits with the
162 following exceptions: discrepant MICs for both the *C. krusei* and *C. parapsilosis* QC isolates and
163 the triazoles were observed, but the agreement (97.7 to 99.7%) was similar or higher than those
164 listed in the M38-A2 document (24); the modes were within one dilution.

165 **Definitions.** As previously defined in the "Introduction", the WT is the population of
166 strains in a species/drug combination with no detectable acquired resistance mechanisms. The
167 ECV (or CO_{WT}) is the highest MIC that would categorize an isolate as WT (without known
168 mechanisms of resistance) or alternatively, the critical drug concentration value that may identify

169 those strains with decreased susceptibility to the agent being evaluated (non-WT isolates), or
170 potentially resistant (25,26,34).

171 **Data analysis.** The analysis of the data was performed as previously reported in various
172 studies and following the CLSI guidelines set forth for this purpose (25,26,34, CLSI documents
173 on ECVs under development). Briefly, after listing the MIC distributions of each species/species
174 complex/agent from each laboratory in an Excel spreadsheet, they were reviewed for
175 skewed/abnormal distributions (e.g., mostly mode at the lowest concentration tested or
176 bimodal), which were not included in the statistical analysis. As per CLSI recommendations
177 (CLSI documents on ECVs under development) and following the examination of global WT
178 modal MIC variability, distributions for each antifungal agent and species/species complex were
179 pooled with the qualifying data. ECVs were calculated for each pooled distribution by the
180 previously reported iterative statistical technique that captured at least 95%, 97.5% and 99% of
181 the modeled WT population (not the observed MICs) (34). In addition, we evaluated the inherent
182 variability (approximately within one doubling dilution) of susceptibility testing and the presence
183 of outlier laboratories in each pooled distribution.

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185

Results and Discussion

186 Susceptibility testing should aid in predicting patient response to therapy, which is the
187 specific role of the BP (35,36). The CLSI has only established species-specific BPs for testing
188 the susceptibility of some *Candida* spp. to echinocandins, fluconazole and voriconazole (36).
189 The reason for this dearth of BPs is that their establishment requires particular steps: (i) WT
190 MIC distributions and ECVs for each species and agent being evaluated, (ii) the agent
191 pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) parameters, (iii) knowledge of the relationship
192 between mechanisms of resistance and MICs, and more importantly, (iv) the correlation of MICs
193 and clinical response to treatment with the specific agent from clinical trials (34-36). Data for
194 these steps are not available for *Fusarium* spp. However, we have gathered MIC distributions
195 for *F. oxysporum* SC, *F. solani* SC, and *F. verticillioides* (the three species more commonly
196 associated with human disease) and three triazoles and amphotericin B. Although ECVs were
197 not proposed for the other species evaluated due to insufficient data, their pooled MIC
198 distributions have been listed in Table 1; the CLSI criteria require a minimum of 100
199 MICs/species from at least three laboratories and ECVs calculated by the iterative statistical
200 method (CLSI documents on ECVs under development). It is expected that the proposed ECVs
201 would separate the two populations (WT and non-WT) that are present in the MIC distribution of

202 a species and agent combination. Although they would not differentiate between susceptible
203 (treatable) and resistant (non-treatable) isolates as BPs do, our proposed ECVs can help to
204 identify those isolates that are more likely to harbor acquired molecular mutations conferring
205 microbial resistance (non-WT isolates). This is an important addition in the absence of BPs for
206 *Fusarium* spp.

207 Table 1 depicts the pooled MIC distributions for the four agents and *Fusarium*
208 complexes/species evaluated. In general the MIC distributions were typical for each antifungal
209 agent and species, where 2 to 5 two-fold dilution concentrations surround the modal MIC. The
210 exceptions were itraconazole and some voriconazole distributions being skewed to the right. In
211 addition, the distributions from each laboratory were comparable as their modal MICs for each
212 species/species complex/agent combination were mostly within 1 two-fold dilution of one
213 another with three exceptions. The amphotericin B mode for *F. oxysporum* SC was one dilution
214 higher in one of the contributing laboratories (4 µg/ml versus 1 to 2 µg/ml in the other
215 laboratories) while posaconazole and voriconazole modes were one dilution lower for *F.*
216 *oxysporum* SC and *F. verticillioides* (1 µg/ml versus 2 to 4 µg/ml in the other laboratories) (data
217 not shown in Tables 1 and 2). Most amphotericin B modes were 2 µg/ml, the exceptions were
218 the lower modes for *F. dimerum* SC and *F. fujikuroi* and the higher mode for *F. incarnatum-*
219 *equiseti* SC (Table 1). Among the triazoles, the highest values were observed when testing
220 itraconazole (modes 8 to ≥16 µg/ml). Posaconazole and voriconazole modes ranged from 0.5 to
221 8 µg/ml and 2 to 8 µg/ml, respectively, with the lowest modes for *F. verticillioides* and the
222 highest for both *F. solani* SC and *F. dimerum* SC. The MIC data for 2 to 11 (agent dependent)
223 isolates of *F. falciforme* were similar to those of their *F. solani* SC with one exception, the eight
224 posaconazole MICs for this species were >16 µg/ml; the same applied for the 4 to 8 isolates of
225 the other three siblings of the *F. fujikuroi* SC (*F. sacchari*, *F. subglutinans*, and *F. thapsinum*)
226 where all itraconazole MICs were >16 µg/ml instead (data not shown in Table 1). Although
227 some of the distributions for the less prevalent species are small, these results underline the
228 need for identification to the species or complex level in addition to antifungal susceptibility
229 testing.

230 While the *in vitro* activities of the four antifungal agents evaluated are similar to those
231 previously reported for *Fusarium* isolates (both CLSI and EUCAST MICs) (2,4,27-30), overall
232 our MIC ranges are wider (Tables 1 and 2). In addition to our aggregated itraconazole data, this
233 was more evident with amphotericin B MICs for both *F. proliferatum* and *F. oxysporum* SC as
234 well as with voriconazole MICs for *F. solani* SC. However, the number of isolates for each
235 pooled distribution was higher than those tested in prior studies (2,4,27-30) (15 to 22 isolates for

236 more prevalent species) and perhaps a better representation of the range of susceptibility to
237 these agents. Nevertheless, the most frequent MIC (when provided) was similar to those in the
238 present study. To our knowledge pooled MIC data are not available for the less prevalent
239 species. Based on these data and the widespread geographical region from which our pooled
240 MIC data originated, we assume that our data are valid.

241 As mentioned above, the CLSI has set forth criteria for the calculation of species-specific
242 ECVs based on unmodified CLSI methodologies for MIC determination (≥ 100 isolates
243 originating in at least three independent laboratories/species/agent) as well as the ECV
244 percentage (the $\geq 97.5\%$ values) to be calculated by the iterative statistical technique (CLSI
245 documents on ECVs under development). Since $\geq 97.5\%$ values risk classifying some isolates
246 with acquired resistance mechanisms as WT, we have also provided the $\geq 95\%$ and $\geq 99\%$
247 ECVs. Values were either the same, or the $\geq 97.5\%$ / $\geq 99\%$ ECVs separated by one dilution. Table
248 2 depicts the ECVs for the aggregated MIC distributions that met the CLSI criteria: amphotericin
249 B, itraconazole, posaconazole and voriconazole versus *F. oxysporum* SC, *F. solani* SC and *F.*
250 *verticillioides*. Insufficient data precluded the calculation of ECVs for the combination of
251 itraconazole and *F. verticillioides* and any other species. The ECVs of amphotericin B were 4
252 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. verticillioides*) and 8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (*F. oxysporum* SC and *F. solani* SC); these values are
253 actually above what anecdotally is considered the notional “breakpoint” for resistance among
254 some *Aspergillus* spp. (2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). Similarly high ECVs were observed among *Aspergillus* spp.,
255 *Mucor circinelloides* and *Rhizopus arrhizus* (25,38). As expected, the highest ECVs were those
256 of the three triazoles and *F. solani* SC (32 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). Lower posaconazole and voriconazole ECVs
257 were calculated for *F. verticillioides* (2 and 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, respectively) and *F. oxysporum* SC (8 and
258 16 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, respectively). These triazole ECVs are mostly higher than their expected maximal,
259 variable and dose dependent trough levels of each of the agents (22,23,39) and highlight the
260 intrinsic resistant nature of *Fusarium* spp. The same applies to amphotericin B values.

261 Although case series of *Fusarium* infections have been reported throughout the years
262 (4,6,8,15,19-21), an indication of the potential correlation between MICs for *Fusarium* spp. and
263 response to treatment was only found in a recent report (21), where CLSI MICs for seven
264 *Fusarium* isolates identified by molecular methods, antifungal therapy (voriconazole or both
265 voriconazole and amphotericin B), and clinical response was documented for patients with
266 invasive fusariosis. Favorable clinical responses were reported for two of the seven patients
267 infected with *F. verticillioides* (voriconazole MICs of 2 and 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, respectively); according to
268 our voriconazole ECV for this species, both infecting strains would be considered WT isolates
269 (Table 2). Of the four patients infected with *F. solani*, the correlation was only evident in one

270 patient (favorable clinical response versus a voriconazole MIC of 4 µg/ml, or another WT strain).
271 The remaining three patients failed therapy; two of them were treated with both voriconazole
272 and amphotericin B (amphotericin B MICs, 4 µg/ml and voriconazole MICs, >8 µg/ml or >16
273 µg/ml). These amphotericin B MICs could be considered WT and both voriconazole MICs more
274 likely non-WT, although the final MIC endpoint was not given (voriconazole ECV for *F. solani*
275 SC, 32 µg/ml). However, it is important to keep in mind that categorization of an isolate as WT
276 does not indicate that the isolate is susceptible (treatable), given that ECVs do not predict
277 clinical response to therapy. Similarly, other factors preclude correlations of in vitro and clinical
278 response to therapy in other studies, where cultures, species and especially MICs are not
279 reported and the response was influenced by the site of infection, the underlying disease and/or
280 the reversal of immunosuppression. In addition, the molecular mechanisms of resistance have
281 not been evaluated in any *Fusarium* isolate causing human disease as it has been for *Candida*
282 and *Aspergillus*. As found with the Mucorales, the molecular biology of *Fusarium* spp. resistance
283 needs to be investigated.

284 In conclusion, species-specific amphotericin B ECVs comprising $\geq 97.5\%$ of the modeled
285 populations of 4 µg/ml (*F. verticillioides*) and 8 µg/ml (*F. oxysporum* SC and *F. solani* SC);
286 posaconazole ECVs of 2 µg/ml (*F. verticillioides*), 8 µg/ml (*F. oxysporum* SC), and 32 µg/ml (*F.*
287 *solani* SC); voriconazole ECVs of 4 µg/ml (*F. verticillioides*), 16 µg/ml (*F. oxysporum* SC) and 32
288 µg/ml (*F. solani* SC); and itraconazole ECVs of 32 µg/ml (*F. oxysporum* SC and *F. solani* SC)
289 have been proposed based on CLSI data from multiple laboratories. ECVs were mostly one
290 dilution lower using $\geq 95\%$ of the modeled populations, which could be more clinically relevant.
291 Similar to the ECVs for *Candida* spp. and *Aspergillus* spp., the proposed ECVs for the more
292 prevalent *Fusarium* spp. may aid in the detection of strains with acquired mechanisms of
293 resistance (non-WT) to the agents evaluated. However, ECVs are not BPs and cannot predict
294 clinical response to therapy and categorization as WT would not mean that the isolate is
295 treatable or susceptible. Also, as for the Mucorales, knowledge regarding molecular
296 mechanisms of resistance and their relationship with MICs is needed.

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303

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508**Table 1. Pooled MIC distributions of amphotericin B and three triazoles for species of *Fusarium* from between 3 and 16 laboratories as determined by the CLSI broth microdilution method^a**

Agent	Species or species complex (SC) ^b	No. of labs	No. of isolates tested	No. of isolates with MIC (µg/ml) of: ^c							
				≤0.25	0.5	1	2	4	8	16	>16
Amphotericin B	<i>F. dimerum</i> SC ^d	8	50	3	7	16	13	5	5	1	
	<i>F. fujikuroi</i> ^e	3	10		1	6	3				
	<i>F. proliferatum</i> ^e	10	82	1	5	16	31	22	5	1	1
	<i>F. verticillioides</i> ^e	9	151		1	27	84	28	6	5	
	<i>F. incarnatum-equiseti</i> SC ^d	6	20		3	3	5	6	3		
	<i>F. oxysporum</i> SC ^e	14	226	1	10	37	107	61	8	2	
	<i>F. solani</i> SC ^h	15	608	8	46	120	265	125	29	15	
Itraconazole	<i>F. dimerum</i> SC ^d	7	45			3	1		15	25	1
	<i>F. fujikuroi</i> ^e	3	10							1	9
	<i>F. proliferatum</i> ^e	10	60			1		4	14	21	20
	<i>F. verticillioides</i> ^e	7	96			2	4	5	27	41	17
	<i>F. incarnatum-equiseti</i> SC ^d	6	20			1	1	2	8	6	2
	<i>F. oxysporum</i> SC ^e	9	148			2	2	4	29	87	24
	<i>F. solani</i> SC ^h	11	338		2	1	7	5	90	220	13
Posaconazole	<i>F. dimerum</i> SC ^d	7	48		1	2	3	5	25	11	1
	<i>F. fujikuroi</i> ^e	3	10			2	3	4	1		
	<i>F. proliferatum</i> ^e	9	49			7	16	6	8	5	7
	<i>F. verticillioides</i> ^e	7	113	15	43	33	9	3			10
	<i>F. incarnatum-equiseti</i> SC ^d	6	19		3	2	5	6	2	1	
	<i>F. oxysporum</i> SC ^e	10	146		1	20	53	37	13	22	
	<i>F. solani</i> SC ^h	8	357			8	15	42	163	113	16
Voriconazole	<i>F. dimerum</i> SC ^d	7	53			3	9	15	24	2	
	<i>F. fujikuroi</i> ^e	3	10				2	5	1	2	
	<i>F. proliferatum</i> ^e	10	74			3	10	29	24	6	2
	<i>F. verticillioides</i> ^e	8	143		1	25	70	35	2	2	8
	<i>F. incarnatum-equiseti</i> SC ^d	6	20		1	2	5	8	3		1
	<i>F. oxysporum</i> SC ^e	13	200		5	10	36	94	47	5	3
	<i>F. solani</i> SC ^h	16	555		3	9	51	123	243	119	7

509 ^aMICs determined by the CLSI M38-A2 method (24).510 ^bSpecies complexes or species as identified by molecular methods (1,4,9,32,33).511 ^cThe highest number in each row (showing the most frequently obtained MIC or the mode) in boldface.512 ^dRefers to the *Fusarium dimerum* species complex.513 ^eMembers of the *Fusarium (Gibberella) fujikuroi* species complex.

514 ^fRefers to the *Fusarium incarnatum-equiseti* species complex, syn. *F. semisectum*.

515 ^gRefers to the *Fusarium oxysporum* species complex.

516 ^hRefers to the *Fusarium solani* species complex.

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Table 2. Epidemiologic cutoff values (ECVs) of amphotericin B, itraconazole, posaconazole, and voriconazole for two clinically relevant *Fusarium* species complexes and *F. verticillioides* as determined by the CLSI broth microdilution method^a

Species or Species complex	Antifungal agent ^b	MIC (µg/ml) Range	Mode ^d	Calculated statistical ECV (µg/ml) ^c		
				≥ 95%	≥97.5%	≥99%
<i>F. verticillioides</i>	AMB	0.5-16	2	4	4	4
	ITR	1->16	16	ND	ND	ND
	POS	≤0.25->16	0.5	2	2	2
	VOR	0.5->16	2	4	4	8
<i>F. oxysporum</i> SC	AMB	≤0.25-16	2	4	8	8
	ITR	1- ≥16	16	32	32	32
	POS	0.5-16	2	8	8	8
	VOR	0.5->16	4	8	16	16
<i>F. solani</i> SC	AMB	≤0.25-16	2	4	8	8
	ITR	0.5- ≥16	16	16	32	32
	POS	1->16	8	32	32	32
	VOR	0.5->16	8	16	32	32

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^aECVs were defined for pooled distributions for ≥100 isolates and from ≥ 3 laboratories using CLSI document M38-A2 methodology (24,34).

^bAMB, amphotericin B; ITR, itraconazole; POS, posaconazole; VOR, voriconazole.

^cCalculated ECVs comprising ≥95%, ≥97.5% and ≥99% of the statistically modeled population. ND, not determined due to insufficient data.

^dMIC most frequently obtained for each distribution.

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