Estimation of the burden of serious mycoses in Cameroon

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Background
Cameroon is a Central African country with a population of ~22.25 million, of whom 40% are children. We have estimated the burden of fungal infections for the first time for the Cameroon.

Methods
Using published literature and population estimates for at risk group, we used deterministic modelling to derive national incidence and prevalence estimates, for the most serious fungal diseases.

Results
Table 1 shows the situation of fungal infections in Cameroon.

The largest burdens of infections were tinea capitis in children (8.1% rate) [1] and recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis in women 15-50 years. HIV infection is common and an estimated 120,000 have CD4 counts under 200, present with opportunistic infection. We assumed an annual rate of Pneumocystis pneumonia of 7.5%, cryptococcal meningitis of 11%, disseminated histoplasmosis of 3% [2-4] and esophageal candidiasis in 20% of these patients, and oesophageal candidiasis only in 5% of all HIV patients. Oral candidiasis in HIV is common (estimated at <100,000 cases) and one series found 21.5% of poorly controlled diabetics to have it as well [5]. The prevalence of COPD is 2.4% and asthma in adults 2.65%. We assumed 25% of COPD patients are admitted to hospital and 15% 298

Conclusion
Fungal infections are common in the Cameroon. They need addressing urgently as only fluconazole is registered and available in the country.

Keywords: Pneumocystis, Cryptococcus, aspergillosis, candidiasis, histoplasmosis, Cameroon

Conflict of interest: none

References