Algorithm to identify *Candida auris* based on phenotypic laboratory method and initial species identification

**Purpose**

*Candida auris* is a multidrug-resistant yeast that has been found in multiple countries, including the United States. *C. auris* can cause invasive infections, be passed from person to person, and persist in the environment. Its severity, communicability, and drug resistance makes correctly identifying *C. auris* crucial to treating patients and preventing infections. However, this is challenging because traditional phenotypic methods frequently misidentify *C. auris*. This algorithm details the steps needed to determine the correct *Candida* spp. based on the tests and equipment available in your lab.

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Please note that these algorithms are based on our current knowledge about misidentification of *C. auris* and may change as we learn new information.
**Identification Method**

Bruker Biotyper
MALDI-TOF

**Database/Software**

RUO library
FDA library

**Initial finding**

*C. auris*

**Determination**

*C. auris* confirmed

**Next steps**

*C. auris* confirmed:
Place patient in transmission-based precautions, report to CDC (candidaauris@cdc.gov), and notify state and local health departments.
Identification Method

bioMérieux VITEK MS MALDI-TOF

Database/Software

RUO library

C. auris

C. auris confirmed

C. haemulonii

No identification

C. haemulonii

No identification

IVD library

Initial finding

Determination

C. auris confirmed:
Place patient in transmission-based precautions, report to CDC (candidauris@cdc.gov), and notify state and local health departments.

C. auris possible:
Further work-up needed to determine if actually C. auris. Send isolates to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification. Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidauris@cdc.gov).
**Identification Method**

- **VITEK 2 YST**

**Initial finding**
- *C. auris*
- *C. haemulonii*
- *C. duobushaemulonii*
- *Candida* spp. not identified

**Determination**
- *C. auris* confirmed
- *C. auris* possible: Needs further work-up
- *C. auris* possible: Needs further work-up
- *C. auris* possible: Needs further work-up

**Next steps**

**C. auris confirmed:**
Place patient in transmission-based precautions, report to CDC (candidauris@cdc.gov), and notify state and local health departments.

**C. auris possible:**
Further work-up needed to determine if actually *C. auris*. Send isolates to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification. Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidauris@cdc.gov).
**API 20C**

- **Identification Method**
  - Rhodotorula glutinis
  - C. sake
  - Candida spp. not identified

**Initial finding**
- Characteristic red color present?
  - **No**
    - C. auris possible: Needs further work-up
  - **Yes**
    - Likely not C. auris

**Determination**
- C. auris possible: Needs further work-up
- Likely not C. auris
- C. auris possible: Needs further work-up

**Next steps**
- **C. auris suspected:**
  Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidaaurantis@cdc.gov). Send any isolates suspected to be C. auris to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification.

- ** Likely not C. auris:**
  No further C. auris-related action required.
**Identification Method**

- **BD Phoenix**

**Initial finding**
- *C. catenulata*
- *C. haemulonii*
- **Candida spp.** not identified

**Determination**
- *C. auris* possible: Needs further work-up

**Next steps**

**C. auris possible:**
Further work-up needed to determine if actually *C. auris*. Send isolates to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification. Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidauris@cdc.gov).
**C. auris possible:**
Further work-up needed to determine if actually *C. auris*. Send isolates to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification. Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidauris@cdc.gov).
C. parapsilosis

Test using cornmeal agar

- No hyphae or pseudohyphae present
  - Can rule-out *C. parapsilosis*. *C. auris* possible: Needs further work-up

- Hyphae or pseudohyphae present
  - Likely to be *C. parapsilosis*, but cannot rule-out *C. auris*. Some *C. auris* strains have had hyphae or pseudohyphae, so consider further work-up

Candida spp. not identified

- *C. auris* possible: Needs further work-up

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**C. auris possible:**
Further work-up needed to determine if actually *C. auris*. Send isolates to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification. Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidaauris@cdc.gov).
C. auris is confirmed if the following initial identifications are given. Further work-up is needed to determine if the isolate is C. auris.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification Method</th>
<th>Database/Software, if applicable</th>
<th>C. auris is confirmed if initial identification is C. auris.</th>
<th>C. auris is possible if the following initial identifications are given. Further work-up is needed to determine if the isolate is C. auris.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruker Biotyper MALDI-TOF</td>
<td>Research use only (RUO) library</td>
<td>C. auris</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDA library</td>
<td>C. auris</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| bioMérieux VITEK MS MALDI-TOF | Research use only (RUO) library | C. auris | C. haemulonii  
No identification |
| IVD library | n/a | C. haemulonii  
No identification | |
| VITEK 2 YST | | C. auris | C. haemulonii  
C. duobushaemulonii  
Candida spp. not identified |
| API 20C | | | Rhodotorula glutinis (characteristic red color not present)  
C. sake  
Candida spp. not identified |
| BD Phoenix | | n/a | C. catenulata  
C. haemulonii  
Candida spp. not identified |
| MicroScan | | n/a | C. lusitaniae*  
C. guilliermondii*  
C. parapsilosis*  
C. famata  
Candida spp. not identified |
| RapID Yeast Plus | | n/a | C. parapsilosis*  
Candida spp. not identified |

* C. guilliermondii, C. lusitaniae, and C. parapsilosis generally make hyphae or pseudohyphae on cornmeal agar. If hyphae or pseudohyphae are not present on cornmeal agar, the isolate should raise suspicions of being C. auris as C. auris typically does not make hyphae or pseudohyphae. However, some C. auris isolates have formed hyphae or pseudohyphae. Therefore, it would be prudent to consider any C. guilliermondii, C. lusitaniae, and C. parapsilosis isolates identified on MicroScan and any C. parapsilosis isolates identified on RapID Yeast Plus as possible C. auris isolates and further work-up should be considered.

If C. auris is confirmed: Place patient in transmission-based precautions, report to CDC (candidaauris@cdc.gov), and notify state and local health departments.

If C. auris is possible: Further work-up is needed to determine if actually C. auris. Send isolates to a reference lab, a state public health lab, a regional lab, or CDC for further identification. Place patient in transmission-based precautions and notify state and local health departments and CDC (candidaauris@cdc.gov).