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Novel diagnostic method for detecting and identifying pathogenic *Candida* species

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Candida is a genus of unicellular fungi that contain a large number of species capable of causing a diversity of human infections. Because pathogenic *Candida* species differ in their epidemiology, pathogenicity and antifungal drug susceptibility, rapid identification of the infecting strain can have a significant positive impact on patient treatment outcomes. However, current methods for diagnosis are not satisfactory, often taking too long, needing technical expertise, or are not specific nor sensitive. Here we present a series of species-specific markers based on the triazole-drug target gene sequences. We show that these markers can rapidly and specifically detect and/or differentiate eight clinically important *Candida* species, in as few as one-genome copy per sample.

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