

Comparación de cinco ensayos comerciales para la detección de antígenos de *Legionella pneumophila* en orina.

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OBJECTIVE: Antigenuria detection is the main approach for diagnosing *Legionella* infections. The aim of this study was to compare 5 commercially available methods for detecting *Legionella pneumophila* soluble antigens in urine. **METHODS:** Seventy-one urine samples were tested, 62 from patients with bacterial infection and 9 from patients with respiratory syncytial virus infection. All samples were assayed for the presence of *L. pneumophila* by immunoenzymatic (ELISA) (Binax and Bartels), and immunochromatographic (IC) (Binax, SAS and Uni-Gold) methods.

RESULTS: Identical results (35 positive and 17 negative) were obtained by the 5 assays in 52 samples (73.2%). Samples showing discrepant results were classified by the majority criterion, and/or other laboratory results (serology), and/or epidemiological findings. On this basis, 51 samples were ultimately classified as positive, and 20 as negative. Sensitivity values of ELISA-Binax, ELISA-Bartels, IC-Binax, IC-SAS and IC-Uni-Gold were 80.4, 100, 82.4, 86.3, and 70.6%, respectively. Corresponding values for specificity were 90, 95, 100, 95 and 100%.

CONCLUSIONS: The results indicate that the methods compared are all adequate for diagnosing *Legionella* infection, although some have certain limitations regarding sensitivity.