

Evaluación de dos métodos inmunocromatográficos comerciales para el diagnóstico rápido de *Giardia duodenalis* y *Cryptosporidium* spp. en muestras de heces.

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INTRODUCTION: To assess and compare the performance of two immunochromatographic tests for the simultaneous detection of *Giardia duodenalis* and *Cryptosporidium* spp. in faeces.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: In this study 254 faeces samples were tested using the two immunochromatography strips Cryto-Giardia (CerTest Biotec) and Stick Crypto-Giardia (Operon).

RESULTS: In the diagnosis of *G. duodenalis*, the sensitivity and specificity of the kits were 97% and 100%, respectively for the CerTest; and 97% and 95% for Operon. In the diagnosis of *Cryptosporidium* spp. Certest strip rendering a sensitivity of 100%, compared to with a sensitivity of 92% using Operon. There were no false positives using either technique.

CONCLUSIONS: Both methods yielded good sensitivity and specificity values and are thus useful tools for a rapid diagnosis of *G. duodenalis* and *Cryptosporidium* spp. The benefits of immunochromatography methods are that there is no requirement for expert microscopists or special equipment.

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