

JUST LAUNCHED - XPECT™ LEGIONELLA

The Oxoid Xpect™ Legionella test is a rapid immunochromatographic test for the direct detection of *Legionella pneumophila* antigen in human urine samples. Designed to detect both serogroups 1 and 6, it has excellent sensitivity and specificity, is easy to use, and can be stored at room temperature.

Pneumonia caused by *Legionella pneumophila* was first recognised in 1977 after an outbreak among attendees at the 1976 American Legion convention. Since then infection by *Legionella* spp. has been found to be an important cause of community-acquired and nosocomial pneumonia. The number of cases of Legionnaires' Disease reported by the European Working Group for Legionella Infections has increased in recent years. In 2007, 946 cases were reported, compared to 360 in 2000¹. In the UK, figures have more than doubled with 236 cases reported in 2007, compared to 107 in 2000². Due to the epidemic potential and high case fatality rate of Legionnaires' Disease, surveillance is important to detect, control and prevent further outbreaks³.

Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 is the most frequent among human isolates, followed by *L. pneumophila* serogroup 6 according to the frequency of isolation from clinical samples⁴. Pneumonia caused by *L. pneumophila* has no particular clinical features to distinguish it from other pneumonias.

Traditional methods for the confirmation of *Legionella* species are lengthy and laborious, and tend only to be performed in larger central laboratories. This causes considerable delays in obtaining results.

The use of Xpect Legionella allows early diagnosis and initiation of appropriate antibiotic therapy.



		Laboratory Diagnosis	
		+	-
Xpect Legionella	+	48	0
	-	3	86
TOTAL		51	86

Positive laboratory diagnosis was determined by a positive urine antigen test and at least one of the following: seroconversion in an IgM and/or IgG assay, a positive culture on a lower respiratory tract sample, and/or PCR on a lower respiratory tract sample.

Sensitivity:	94.1%
Specificity:	100%
Positive predictive value:	100%
Negative predictive value:	96.6%

To order Xpect™ Legionella (code: R24680) please speak to your local Oxoid representative, tick 5 on the reply paid card or visit www.oxoid.com

REPLY 5

References:

1. http://www.ewgli.org/data/data_tables/month_year_onset.asp
2. http://www.ewgli.org/data/data_tables/year_onset_country_report.asp
3. WHO Recommended Surveillance Standards, A48.1 Legionellosis
4. Chen, C., Chen, K., Hsueh, P., and Yang, P. (2006) *J. Formos. Med. Assoc.* **105**:256-262

