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Asuragen develops Armored RNA Quant SARS-CoV-2 control, 05/20:66
Stat Profile Prime Plus cleared for POC use, 05/20:66
FDA OKs Cobas HPV test for use on 6800/8800, 05/20:65
Therascreen BRAF test launched as companion Dx, 05/20:65
Latest on COVID-19, 05/20:65
Better cancer diagnostics at core of Future of Pathology report, 06/20:66
Agilent PD-L1 assay approved as companion diagnostic, 06/20:66
Randox SARS-CoV-2 controls receive CE mark, 06/20:65
FDA clears LVDS with BioMérieux culture systems, 06/20:65
Beckman awarded expanded partnership with BARDA, 06/20:65
Roche launches upgraded target enrichment solution, 06/20:65
Latest on COVID-19, 06/20:65
AMP recommends PGx alleles for genotyping testing for warfarin response, 07/20:78
New Qiagen panels launched at ASCO, 07/20:78
Sysmex launches XF-1600, 07/20:78
FDA approves Cobas EZH2 Mutation Test as CDx, 07/20:77
'A new level' of collaboration between CAP, IARC, 07/20:77

Latest on COVID-19, 07/20:77

SpIntellx, CellNetix collaborate to validate HistoMapr-Breast, 08/20:66

FDA approves HPV test with extended genotyping capabilities, 08/20:66

CE-IVD launch for Roche uPath PD-L1 (SP263) image analysis, 08/20:65

Invitae to combine with ArcherDX, 08/20:65

Latest on COVID-19, 08/20:65

Roche launches preanalytical system, announces FDA OK for HER2 dual ISH test as CDx, 09/20:70

Sysmex releases Caresphere Workflow Solution, 09/20:70

Expanded FDA clearance for ClonoSEQ assay to assess MRD in CLL, 09/20:69

CAP urges data reporting rules be rescinded, 09/20:69

Latest on COVID-19, 09/20:69

Siemens Healthineers to collaborate with CDC to define threshold for NAb sufficient to confer immunity, 10/20:90

FDA approves HIV-1/HIV-2 Qualitative, expanded use of CINTec Plus Cytology, 10/20:90

HHS changes its COVID-19 lab reporting rules, 10/20:89

Latest on COVID-19, 10/20:89

AMP reports findings of SARS-CoV-2 molecular testing survey, 11/20:94

Magnolia launches Steripath Micro, 11/20:94

EGFR test v2 approved as CDx for expanded therapies, 11/20:93

EUA awarded to IL-6 test, 11/20:93

Latest on COVID-19, 11/20:93

New AST program to sharpen labs' antibiotic stewardship practices, 12/20:78

ABPath discontinues SAM requirement, 12/20:78

CAP, ASCP lymphoma guideline released, 12/20:77

Qiagen, BioNTech to collaborate on CDx, 12/20:77

Latest on COVID-19, 12/20:77

Q&A

How should automated body fluid cell counts be reported? (Nakashima), 01/20:47

Can the CAP provide guidance on revised checklist requirements GEN.77500 Liquid Nitrogen and Dry Ice and GEN.77550 Liquid Nitrogen Safety? (Wielgos), 01/20:48

Does the CAP have recommendations regarding diagnostic criteria for evaluating HER2 in colorectal carcinoma? (Bellizzi), 02/20:64

Is there a place for procalcitonin testing alongside PCR testing on the BioFire system? (Hayden), 03/20:56

We are looking for validation methods for lower breakpoints for carbapenems. The CDC has banks of organisms available to run on our Vitek 2 (BioMerieux). Are there guidelines on which organisms to include and how many times to test? (Humphries, Simner) 03/20:57

For the population with diabetes, what can the clinical laboratory do to promote evidence-based testing and monitoring for chronic kidney disease? (Vassalotti), 04/20:59

What are the proficiency testing enrollment requirements if an analyte is tested in multiple locations within the laboratory? (Hajkaluk), 04/20:59

With regard to specimens from oncology patients exhibiting hyperleukocytosis, what is the best way to correct for potential WBC interference on the RBC indices? (Burnside), 04/20:60

Can you provide a current reference for the various modifications of transfused red blood cells — for example, irradiation and white cell depletion — and their indications? (Sesok-Pizzini), 05/20:60

In the context of allowable error relative to the immature platelet fraction test, is the analytical measurement range applicable to the IPF? (Kovach), 05/20:60

What is the normal random plasma glucose value? (Alter), 05/20:60

Are there high-specificity IHC stains for diagnosing mesothelioma that differ from those recommended in the “Guidelines for pathologic diagnosis of malignant mesothelioma: 2012 update of the consensus statement from the International Mesothelioma Interest Group”? (Miller, Roden), 06/20:60

For our hospital tissue and blood committee, we would like to expand the tissue component to look at more preoperative versus postoperative diagnoses and anything else that should be evaluated. Is there a resource

that provides a list of tissue-related quality metrics that we can evaluate? (Sheppard, Lewis), 06/20:60

Is it acceptable for a clinical laboratory to calculate ionized (free) calcium if calcium ion-selective electrode is not available? Are results of calculated ionized (free) calcium of acceptable accuracy in clinical practice? (Thomas), 07/20:73

Under checklist requirement COM.04250 “Comparability of Instruments and Methods – Nonwaived Testing,” what is the minimum number of samples that should be analyzed and which acceptance criteria should be used for the comparison? (Rose), 07/20:73

Request for feedback on the recommended maximum number of blood draw attempts. (Han), 07/20:73

If a person died from an overdose, would the toxicology screen always show which drugs were in their system? (Gill), 08/20:61

Is the variation between the measurement of 24-hour urine samples from a scale and actual volume clinically significant? What kind of validation is recommended? (Manthei, Schroeder), 08/20:61

Is the evaluation of gene copies by RT-PCR or multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification a qualitative or quantitative assay? (Bean), 09/20:63

How does using sodium heparin, in an attempt to reduce EDTA-induced platelet clumps, affect the platelet count? (Kovach), 09/20:63

How do you know whether thyroid-stimulating hormone isoforms have been measured in an assay when the TSH levels are very high and free T4 is considerably less than the reference interval? (Devaraj), 09/20:64

What is the minimum cutoff value for total nucleated cells and red blood cells in body fluids after which we need to perform cytopspin? (Zimmerman), 10/20:83

We treat all elevated troponins as critical values that necessitate a phone call to the ordering physician and documentation on the patient’s chart. Is this necessary? How does it affect patient treatment? (Alter), 10/20:83

What can laboratories expect to see after a medication such as Narcan is given for an opioid overdose? (Jones, Graham), 11/20:86

There are conflicting views among my colleagues regarding the meaning of initial competency assessment. Some think that using a training checklist for new staff counts as the initial competency assessment because we are signing off that staff are competent to perform patient testing and report results. Others believe an initial competency assessment is done shortly after training is completed, followed by the mid-cycle/six-month competency assessment and annual competency assessment. Please clarify. (Kosiek), 11/20:86

How do you calculate RDW-SD and RDW-CV values in dimorphic anemia cases on the Sysmex XN-3000? Most of the dimorphic anemia cases report a masked parameter. (Kabb), 11/20:86

Can a heel stick for a basic metabolic panel with magnesium and phosphorus be performed on a two-month-old baby? (Suh-Lailam, Devaraj), 12/20:70

Due to nationwide supply shortages affecting COVID-19 and other testing in the laboratory, we are concerned about using up critical supplies when assessing competency. Do you have suggestions or strategies we can use? (Pritt), 12/20:70

When a patient is admitted to our hospital, we collect MRSA nares PCR, MRSA axilla by culture, MRSA groin by culture, and vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* by PCR for infection control purposes. Many surrounding facilities have told us they have removed the axilla and groin cultures, but no references were cited to support removing these procedures. Our facility would like to follow the practices of other hospitals, but our providers would like a reference to cite. Are there best practices or benchmarks from an infection control and microbiology point of view that would allow us to remove the axilla and groin MRSA screen cultures? (Martin), 12/20:71

Q-Probes

Study of inpatient test utilization practices set to begin, 05/20:51

ER, PgR, HER2 expression rates seen in Q-Probes, 06/20:05

Quality assurance/quality control/quality improvement

Study of inpatient test utilization practices set to begin, 05/20:51
Closing the workflow loop: HistoQC for digital slides, 07/20:26
In 2020 checklist, a 'gentle push' to next quality level, 08/20:01
Real-time QC: on course for prime time?, 09/20:01

Residency/residents

At UW, anatomic pathology rotation moves online, 07/20:46

Respiratory viruses/treatments/tests

Outbreak detection of novel pathogens: Is AI the answer?, 07/20:05
The laboratory tests of pandemic summer, 08/20:01
Compass points chart the pandemic, 09/20:01
Oh, the places you'll go when flu season hits, 09/20:01
Flu mounts COVID's bustling stage, 10/20:01
Uncharted season forges new paths for all hands, 10/20:28
Making peace with saliva, pooled testing, 11/20:01
What test for whom and when—lab leaders talk, 11/20:33
In SARS-CoV-2, small steps but big wins, 12/20:01
Journeys to alternative SARS-CoV-2 strategies, 12/20:05

Safety (see also Patient ID systems/patient safety)

Lab with Ebola experience: COVID more complicated, 08/20:05

Saliva testing

Journeys to alternative SARS-CoV-2 strategies, 12/20:05

Screening tests (see also Diagnostic assays/markers/tests/test kits)

D-dimer trifecta: clarity on units, values, and use, 01/20:01
No-blot testing charts new course for Lyme Dx, 01/20:01
Biomarker screen makes case for MODY genetic testing, 02/20:01
At the pandemic's serologic frontier, 06/20:01
Reading COVID-19's signature: lung tissue injury, 07/20:01
The laboratory tests of pandemic summer, 08/20:01
Targeting microbiology lab efficiency with AI, 08/20:01

Lab with Ebola experience: COVID more complicated, 08/20:05
Steps to verifying SARS-CoV-2 antibody assays and what's known about protective immunity, 8/20:24
COVID testing capacity falls short as flu season nears, 8/20:48
Compass points chart the pandemic, 09/20:01
Oh, the places you'll go when flu season hits, 09/20:01
Flu mounts COVID's bustling stage, 10/20:01
To fast or not to fast? Fat is the question, 10/20:01
Uncharted season forges new paths for all hands, 10/20:28
Making peace with saliva, pooled testing, 11/20:01
At POC and in lab, 2 new checks on SARS-CoV-2 testing, 11/20:24
What test for whom and when—lab leaders talk, 11/20:33
Fewer urine cultures — series of changes add up, 11/20:05
In SARS-CoV-2, small steps but big wins, 12/20:01
Journeys to alternative SARS-CoV-2 strategies, 12/20:05
Urinalysis: 'a field with the potential to do more': pathologists, two companies talk about urinalysis now and what's needed, 12/20:48

Sexually-transmitted diseases/infections

Three at AACC: rapid STI testing, toxicology, biosafety, 11/20:01

Shorts on Standards

ISO 22367: Application of risk management to medical laboratories, 05/20:55

Social media

Twitter tool connects pathologists with similar cases, 10/20:84

Test ordering

Adapting test ordering to novel tick-borne disease rise, 05/20:01
How to right the wrongs of clinical decision support alerts, 12/20:01

Test utilization (see also Screening tests)

Pulling out all the stops for test-utilization management, 01/20:48

Study of inpatient test utilization practices set to begin, 05/20:51

Test validation and verification

New checklist hones lab's verification and validation requirements, 07/20:01

Steps to verifying SARS-CoV-2 antibody assays and what's known about protective immunity, 8/20:24

Tick-borne disease (see also Lyme disease)

Adapting test ordering to novel tick-borne disease rise, 05/20:01

Toxicology testing/consults

New edition of toxicology testing guide now out, 01/20:20

Moving beyond immunoassays for poisoned patients, 04/20:01

Transplantation/transplant services

In SARS-CoV-2, small steps but big wins, 12/20:01

Troponin

Higher CVD risk, or lower risk? hs-cTn in diabetes, 10/20:05

Tuberculosis

HIV, TB requirements in latest accreditation checklist edition, 06/20:01

Tumor boards

Carcinoma of unknown primary case reviewed in tumor board session, 01/20:01

Tumor deposits

In CRC, distinguishing tumor deposit from lymph node, 07/20:14

Urinalysis/urinary tract infections/urinary cytology

Targeting microbiology lab efficiency with AI, 08/20:01

Fewer urine cultures — series of changes add up, 11/20:05

Urinalysis: 'a field with the potential to do more': pathologists, two companies talk about urinalysis now and what's needed, 12/20:48