National Jewish Health launches assay for NTM drug resistance

February 2019—National Jewish Health Advanced Diagnostic Laboratories has launched a line probe assay to detect nontuberculous mycobacteria infections and identify NTM species and drug-resistance markers at a molecular level within 48 hours after obtaining a sample from culture.

The NTM-DR line probe assay allows rapid differentiation of *M. tuberculosis* from several frequently encountered NTM species, including the slowly growing *M. avium*, *M. intracellulare*, and *M. chimaera* species as well as several rapidly growing mycobacteria, including *M. abscessus* and its subspecies. The assay also identifies genetic markers associated with macrolide and aminoglycoside resistance, two drugs used for the treatment of NTM infections.

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