

Diagnostic Accuracy of CBNAAT in Spinal Tuberculosis

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ABSTRACT

Cartridge-Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (CB-NAAT) is a rapid molecular test which is endorsed by Indian RNTCP for the diagnosis of extrapulmonary tuberculosis. However, Indian RNTCP has not specified its use in diagnosis of bone and joint TB. CBNAAT was used to test its accuracy in 42 patients with suspected spinal tuberculosis. Samples taken were split and simultaneously sent for CBNAAT, liquid culture and histopathology. The sensitivity and specificity of CBNAAT against liquid culture was 81.25% and 90.9% respectively. The sensitivity and specificity of CBNAAT against histopathology was 81.25% and 83.3% respectively. Hence, CBNAAT has fairly high sensitivity and specificity in spinal tuberculosis. CBNAAT can be considered as an initial test in the diagnosis of spinal tuberculosis.