

- Title** Gene amplification to detect herpes simplex virus (HSV) and varicella-zoster virus (VZV) genomes in cerebrospinal fluid in cases of encephalitis
- Agency** HAS (French National Authority for Health - Haute Autorité de santé)
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- Reference** Link to full report in French: http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c_2015366/fr/detection-du-genome-des-virus-herpes-simplex-hsv-et-zona-varicelle-vzv-dans-le-liquide-cerebro-spinal-par-amplification-genique-en-cas-d-encephalite

Aim

The aim of this report is to analyse coherence between the application, and good professional practice guidelines and professional opinion, with a view to including gene amplification for detecting herpes simplex and varicella-zoster virus genomes in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in patients with encephalitis on the list of clinical laboratory procedures reimbursed by the National Health Insurance system in France.

Conclusions

As there is consistency between the application and the conclusions of the guidelines identified and analysed, along with the opinions of professional organisations, HAS recommends inclusion of gene amplification to detect herpes simplex and varicella-zoster virus genomes in CSF in patients with suspected infectious encephalitis on the list of procedures reimbursed by the National Health Insurance system.

Methods

The method selected was a short assessment procedure involving:

- critical analysis of the good practice guidelines identified through a comprehensive literature search;
- identifying coherence between the application and the good practice guidelines;
- gathering the opinions of professional organisations in each of the specialties concerned (emergency medicine, infectious diseases, paediatrics, neurology, medical biology);
- summarising these two elements in a rationale which was submitted directly to the HAS Board for approval.

Written by

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