

- Title** Update of laboratory medicine procedures related to the serodiagnosis of toxocariasis (visceral larva migrans)
- Agency** HAS (French National Authority for Health – Haute Autorité de Santé)
5 avenue du Stade de France – F 93218 La Plaine Cedex, France
Tel.: +33 (0)1 55 93 70 00 – Fax: +33 (0)1 55 93 74 35, contact.seap@has-santé.fr, www.has-sante.fr
- Reference** link to full report in French: http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c_2680723/fr/actualisation-des-actes-de-biologie-medicale-relatifs-au-diagnostic-serologique-de-la-toxocarose-larva-migrans-viscerale

Aim

The aim of this report was to review the serological techniques for detecting *Toxocara* antibodies that are currently validated for initial testing (screening) and confirming diagnosis of toxocariasis (visceral larva migrans), to respond to a request from National Health Insurance regarding updating the list of laboratory medicine procedures that it reimburses. This request envisaged limiting initial testing to immunoenzyme techniques and confirmation to the Western blot.

Finally, the views of healthcare professionals involved with this infection were gathered via a questionnaire sent to clinical biologists, infectious disease physicians and the French laboratory most active in this field.

Written by

Nadia ZEGHARI-SQUALLI, HAS (French National Authority for Health – Haute Autorité de santé), France.

Conclusions and results

The data collected indicate that:

- the preferred standard serological technique for initial toxocariasis testing is currently the immunoenzyme techniques EIA (immunoenzyme assay) or ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay);
- if there is a positive result, the confirmation technique is the Western blot.

The proposed update of the list of laboratory medicine procedures reimbursed by National Health Insurance regarding the techniques to be used for *Toxocara* serology seems therefore logical and appropriate.

Methods

The method first involved a critical analysis of literature reviews identified through a systematic literature search covering the period 2010-2016. No clinical practice guidelines, technology assessment reports, meta-analyses or systematic reviews were identified at the end of this literature search. The literature analysed consisted of general reviews (n=10), data sheets (n=3) and one teaching document.

Data from French practice were then taken into account, provided by the National Health Insurance reimbursement databases and two national quality controls performed by the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety.