

- Title** Update of laboratory medicine procedures related to the diagnosis of strongyloidiasis
- 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-sante.fr, www.has-sante.fr
- Reference** ISBN number: 978-2-11-151478-2, link to full report in French: http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c_2729708/fr/actualisation-des-actes-de-biologie-medicale-relatifs-au-diagnostic-de-la-strongyloidose-anguillulose?xtmc=&xtcr=1

Aim

The objective of this work is to assess the relevance of the proposals to amend the diagnostic procedures for strongyloidiasis – testing for larvae in the stool and serum antibody testing – by specifying their indications and the techniques used.

Conclusions and results

This work reports a homogeneity between most of the changes suggested by the applicant and the recommendations of the guidelines and the views of the professional bodies.

In summary, for HAS, the diagnosis of strongyloidiasis is based on:

- serum anti-*Strongyloides stercoralis* antibody testing performed using an enzyme immunoassay technique (ELISA);
- testing for larvae in the stool, performed using a 'conventional' parasitology test then an extraction technique, the Baermann method (repeated three times over several days); observation of larvae provides a certain diagnosis.

The sequence of these two tests is not formally established; they are often concurrent.

The primary target populations (indications) are:

- patients with clinical symptoms (GI, cutaneous, etc.) or laboratory symptoms (hypereosinophilia) suggestive of strongyloidiasis (on immunosuppressive therapy or not);
- patients who come from or who have lived in an endemic area, regardless of the date and duration of their stay, before being put on immunosuppressive therapy (in particular long-term high-dose corticosteroids, chemotherapy, immunomodulators, etc.);
- patients who are seropositive for the HTLV-1 virus;
- immigrants or refugees from endemic areas, on their arrival.

Methods

The method used is a short assessment procedure that involves:

- performing of a critical analysis of the summary literature (good practice guidelines, technological assessment reports, meta-analyses and systematic reviews) identified by a systematic literature search;
- obtaining the reasoned views of the professional bodies concerned with the subject;
- conducting a survey of medical laboratories using serology to estimate the number of patients who have undergone serological diagnosis in France in recent years;
- compiling this material in a short proposal, submitted directly to the Board for validation.

Written by

Jean-Charles Lafarge, HAS (French National Authority for Health - Haute Autorité de Santé), France.