



The unmet need of Mycology Excellence Centres: Microbiologist's View

The inauguration of the Manchester ECMM Excellence Centre
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We need improvement.....

- External Quality Assessment programme - to monitor the level of routine diagnostics.
- Laboratories were asked to handle samples like routine samples: Five simulated clinical samples were distributed to 59 participating laboratories.
- The specimens contained the following microorganisms:
 - 1) *C. glabrata* and *C. albicans* in a ratio of 1:20
 - 2) *Cryptococcus neoformans*
 - 3) *A. fumigatus*, *C. albicans* and *Enterobacter cloacae*
 - 4) *C. tropicalis*, *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Enterococcus faecium*;
 - 5) None.

We need improvement.....

- 66% of the laboratories failed to detect the *C. glabrata* isolate in sample no. 1.
- 34% of the laboratories reporting susceptibility results incorrectly reported the *C. neoformans* isolate as fluconazole susceptible.
- 24% of the laboratories failed to detect *A. fumigatus* in specimen no. 3.
 - False sense of satisfactory performance
 - Mycological diagnosis is difficult
 - There is a need of further improvement and attention.

We need improvement.....

What is the clinical utility of the b-D-glucan assay?

Only **six panellists** indicated that they would use the b-D-glucan assay in selected patients, and **15 indicated** that there was insufficient evidence from clinical studies to support the use of this assay routinely.

We need

to facilitate scientific exchanges

to improve communication between European mycologists for the standardization of methodology

to coordinate multicentre drug trials

to investigate the epidemiology of mycoses

to undertake other appropriate activities

to meet annually

Created ECMM & EFISG Guidelines on the diagnosis.....



ECMM.....

- to acknowledge centres with fungal multidisciplinary expertise
- to acknowledge centres performing high level diagnostic standards (conventional and molecular-based techniques)
- to acknowledge centers which are able to sever as diagnostic reference „excellence“ laboratories for European clinical studies
- to acknowledge centres which support the national health development

–Silver Status

Excellence in either laboratory or clinical mycology.

–Gold Status

Excellence in the both, laboratory and clinical mycology.

–Diamond Status

Gold Status AND participation in ECMM endorsed clinical or epidemiological studies.



