

Determination of human herpes simplex virus in clear cerebrospinal fluids by multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in Rwanda

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to test CSF obtained from different regions of Rwanda for herpes simplex viruses (HSV) type 1 and 2 using a commercial multiplex PCR kit. CSF samples were obtained from patients with clinical suspicion of meningitis and encephalitis which may be caused by different microorganisms including herpes viruses. More than 80% of clear cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) submitted to two referral hospitals (King Faisal Hospital and University Teaching Hospital of Kigali) and to the National Reference Laboratory of Rwanda, were found to be negative for *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the only microorganisms tested at these facilities.