

ABOUT ESfEQA



ESfEQA is a German company based in Heidelberg and accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010 by the German Accreditation Body DAkkS. ESfEQA offers more than 90 External Quality Assessment programs in Biochemistry, Hematology, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostics, and Educational Programs.

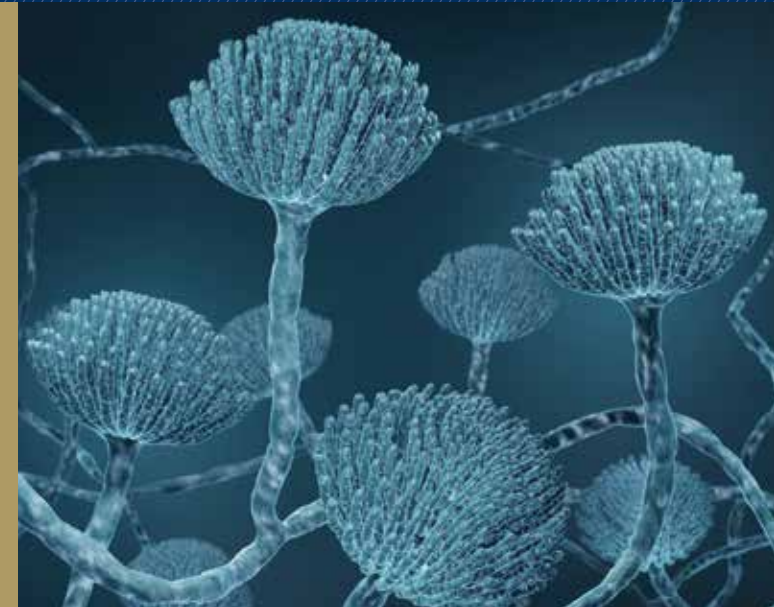
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Ask your local distributor or ESfEQA how to get enrolled in the ESfEQA External Quality Assessment Schemes.

ASPERGILLUS GALACTOMANNAN ANTIGEN

EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT / PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

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EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Aspergillus Galactomannan Antigen (ASPAG)

Analytical Parameter:
Aspergillus Antigen (Galactomannan)



Biological Background

Invasive mold infections pose a significant risk and a serious threat to immunocompromised patients. They are mostly caused by *Aspergillus* spp., which, in general, can induce various types of diseases:

- Aspergilloma is the local colonization by *Aspergillus* spp. in pre-existing natural or pathological cavities, for example in the lung.
- Invasive aspergillosis can spread from the lungs via the blood vessels and affect any organ including the CNS.

Early and accurate diagnosis of life-threatening invasive aspergillosis is essential to establish a proper anti-fungal treatment.

In this context, the detection of *Aspergillus* Galactomannan antigen in serum/plasma and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) specimens is of particular importance.

The Galactomannan antigen is an oligosaccharide chain, which is the main component of the cell wall of *Aspergillus* spp. It can be used to detect these fungi and, thus, allows discrimination of aspergillosis from other mycoses.

Schedule & Samples

ESfEQA has launched a new EQA/Proficiency Testing program for testing of Galactomannan antigen in human specimens to support medical laboratories in their quality assurance.

The Aspergillus Galactomannan Antigen program (ordering code: ASPAG) consists of 2 surveys per year, one in the 2nd quarter, and one in the 4th quarter. For each survey, 2 liquid samples of human plasma/serum (minimum 0.5 mL) are provided.

This program is synchronized with other ESfEQA programs allowing consolidated shipments of survey samples, either directly from ESfEQA or via the local ESfEQA distributor.

ESfEQA Reports & Certificates

Reports with detailed statistical information are provided as PDF-files to each participant via the TEQA web application. This includes the assessment of the laboratory performance in comparison to the target values and to the results of participants that have used the same, but also other analytical devices. Moreover, the reports contain specific comments on the evaluation and conclusions for a better understanding of the survey results.

Reports and certificates are made available within 3 weeks after the closing date for result submission.



Benefits of ESfEQA ASPAG EQA

- Liquid, ready-to-use samples of human source material
- Stable control material with storage at 2-8 °C
- High commutability of control material for detection with various methods and instruments