ESfEQA
European Society for
External Quality Assessment

IFU_MALM, Ver002

Survey for Malaria Microscopy Parameters

EQA Provider: ESfEQA GmbH Heidelberg

Survey Coordinator: Dr. H. Depner

Instructions for Use

Notes:

These human source materials have been tested and found negative for HIV1, HIV2, HCV antibodies and HBsAg. Because no test method can offer complete assurance that infectious agents are absent, this material should be handled as potentially infectious. The samples should be handled by trained personnel only, and generally accepted laboratory practices appropriate for infectious materials should be employed when handling this product.

WARNING: Contains methanol.
H225 Highly flammable liquid and vapour.
H301+H311+H331 Toxic if swallowed, in contact with skin or if inhaled.
H370 Causes damage to organs (eye, heart, brain, liver, central nervous system).

This product contains human source material and should be considered as potentially infectious.

Various tasks of the proficiency testing scheme may occasionally be given over to qualified subcontractors. However, ESfEQA is responsible to the participants for the subcontractor's work.

Results from sample analysis may only be disclosed to colleagues from other laboratories after the testing period has been concluded.

By registering for and participating in this EQA participants agree to accept the general terms and conditions of ESfEQA GmbH. These can be retrieved online at www.esfeqa.eu.

1. Intended Use

The samples are intended for use as qualitative control material for External Quality Assessment (EQA) in medical laboratories for the analysis of following Malaria Microscopy parameters:

Malaria Parasite Detection
Species Identification
Stage Identification
Quantitative *Plasmodium falciparum* determination

2. Product Description

The samples consist of methanol fixed, Giemsa stained blood films on glass slides.

3. Storage and Stability

Upon receipt the samples should be stored at room temperature between 20-25°C in a non-humid environment. At this temperature they are stable at least for three months.

4. Sample Preparation and Analysis

In order to provide samples that reflect patient specimen, some of the samples may contain no parasite while others contain more than one parasite. Report all parasites observed in the sample.

For all samples microscopic analysis should be performed the same way as examinations of patient specimens.

Quantitative analysis: to calculate the *P. falciparum* count per µL of blood, please apply the following formula:

$$\text{Parasites}/\mu\text{L} = \frac{\text{Number of parasites counted}}{\text{Number of WBCs Counted}} \times \text{WBC count}/\mu\text{L}$$

Please count the parasites and the WBCs in the field of view until you a minimum of 200 WBCs in total.

As the patient's actual WBC count is unknown, please use the standard count of 8000 WBC/µL in the formula.

5. Dates and Submission of Test Results

Testing Periods: Please refer to the sample labels. Results can be submitted anytime within the testing period indicated on the sample labels.

Please submit your results electronically to ESfEQA at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu while indicating the method and the instrument (optional) used. To change the configuration please refer to the TEQA LAB Instructions at http://www.esfeqa.eu/en/eqa-programs/instructions-for-participants/ .
All entries are confirmed by pressing the button "confirm". The successful transmission of the results is indicated by “data saved”.

Contact your local distributor of ESfEQA programs or ESfEQA directly if you need assistance for the registration, configuration and result submission in TEQA.

Alternatively, though not preferred, use the fax form provided on the ESfEQA website.

6. Deadline for Data Submission

The deadlines for submitting results are indicated on the sample labels (time zone GMT +1).

7. Reports and Certificates

The data will be evaluated by ESfEQA. The individual laboratory reports and certificates can be retrieved online at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu. The reports and certificates will be available within 3 weeks after the deadline of data submission.

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