



Messenger

Laboratory Diagnosis of Pertussis

Recently the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Communicable Disease staff have observed a number of physicians attempting to use serologic testing to diagnose cases of pertussis. The serologic tests available at commercial laboratories are unproven or have unknown clinical accuracy, including Bordetella pertussis IgG and IgA specific antibody tests. In contrast, molecular amplification tests have with excellent sensitivity and specificity while culture has inferior sensitivity. PCR is a recognized superior method for detection of the agent of whooping cough with many reports indicate the test is 90-95% sensitive while culture has a reported sensitivity of 45-60% in most published studies. A serologic test developed by the CDC and the FDA is the only antibody test shown to be effective in joint studies, is only available to public health investigations, is not available from reference laboratories, and is only useful with serum specimens collected 2 to 12 weeks after symptom onset.

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-confirmation.html>

The SLO Public Health Laboratory has considerable experience using the Bordetella Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test daily in either the Respiratory PCR Panel or as a single test detecting B. pertussis and B. parapertussis. Nasopharyngeal wash and swab specimens in saline collected within three weeks of onset of the characteristic cough are being accepted for testing. Fee is \$128.00 on July 1, 2017, and all insurances can be billed by the SLO Public Health Laboratory.

You're Invited: CAPHLD Institute Symposium Day November 7 in San Luis Obispo!

If you are a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in need of continued education hours, you should know that 7 CEUs are available by attending Symposium Day November 7, 2017 during the Annual Institute of the California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD) held at the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo. The theme of the meeting will be "A Culture of Resilience: Adapting to New Technologies"

Symposium Day Speakers include Charles Chiu and Mark Pandori on next generation sequencing, John Griffith on Molecular source tracking, Curtis Fritz on Zoonotic diseases in California, Sharon Messenger on Zika and other flaviviruses, Heidi Bauer on STI trends and Mycoplasma genitalium, and Sheldon Fung on the FBI activities. Join us and hear about the newest scientific advances!

Learn more and register at <http://www.caphld.org>.
