Application of polymerase chain reaction for rapid diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis

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摘要

Abstract

In the past five years, a number of reports on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis has been published showing that it is a useful and accurate method for the early diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis. The assay has also been proven to be more sensitive over the conventional methods of bacterioloical examination and immunoassay. Sensitivity of the PCR for diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis is around 63-100% and specificity is 88-100%. In addition to the advantage of providing rapid diagnosis, this assay can also be used for the assessment of treatment response in patients. With the exepected rapid increase in the number of clinical AIDS patients over the next 10 years, the incidence of tuberculous meningitis is also expected to rise accordingly. Similarly, the importance of PCR as a diagnostic tool.

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