

M15-A
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Laboratory Diagnosis of Blood-borne Parasitic Diseases; Approved Guideline

This document provides guidance on specimen collection, optimum timing for preparing blood films, blood film preparations, staining procedures, examination of specimens, and identification of parasites.

A guideline for global application developed through the NCCLS consensus process.



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NCCLS...

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- the development and open review of documents
- the revision of documents in response to comments by users
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Most NCCLS documents are subject to two levels of consensus—"proposed" and "approved." Depending on

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Healthcare professionals in all specialties are urged to volunteer for participation in NCCLS projects. Please contact the NCCLS Executive Offices for additional information on committee participation.

Laboratory Diagnosis of Blood-borne Parasitic Diseases; Approved Guideline

Abstract

NCCLS document M15-A— *Laboratory Diagnosis of Blood-borne Parasitic Diseases; Approved Guideline*, presents instructions for preparation of thick and thin blood films, the appropriate use of stains, and methods to assist in the diagnosis of many parasitic diseases. Procedures for blood collection by skin puncture and venipuncture, techniques for preparing films for blood parasite examination, and steps for preparing Giemsa stain and other reagents, including a special stain for microfilariae, are provided. The optimum times for preparing blood films for five particular parasites—*Plasmodium* species (malaria), *Babesia* species, *Trypanosoma cruzi* (Chagas' disease), African trypanosomiasis, and filariasis—are identified and explained. A thorough list of blood film examination supplies is included. Basic guidelines and reference materials for the identification of blood parasites are given.

Other than babesiosis, vector-transmitted, blood-borne parasitic diseases are not endemic to temperate climates. However, laboratories may be called upon to detect and identify an etiological agent in suspected infections. This document is, therefore, useful for the performance of such laboratory procedures.

NCCLS. *Laboratory Diagnosis of Blood-borne Parasitic Diseases; Approved Guideline*. NCCLS document M15-A (ISBN 1-56238-401-5). NCCLS, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898 USA, 2000

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