

EVALUATION OF MOLECULAR-BASED CLARITHROMYCIN RESISTANCE TESTING IN HELICOBACTER PYLORI COMPARED TO CULTURE-BASED TESTING IN THE IRISH HEALTHCARE SETTING

Sinead Smith

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Poster

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A prospective Irish study comparing molecular and culture-based clarithromycin susceptibility testing in 191 H. pylori-positive patients found that the RIDA®GENE assay had 74.2% sensitivity and 94.7% specificity versus culture, with agreement in 84.3% of cases.

KEY POINTS

- Culture-based methods detected clarithromycin resistance in 49.2% of patients versus 38.7% by molecular testing ($P=0.05$), with results agreeing in 84.3% of cases.
- The RIDA®GENE assay showed 74.2% sensitivity (95% CI: 64.4-82.6%) and 94.7% specificity (95% CI: 88.0-98.3%) compared to culture and E-test as the reference standard.
- Positive predictive value was 93.5% and negative predictive value was 78.1% for the molecular assay.
- The molecular assay was faster and easier to use than culture but the authors suggest the low sensitivity may limit its use to cases where culture fails.
- The study enrolled adults regardless of prior H. pylori treatment history from two Irish university hospitals, with biopsies from antrum and corpus analysed using EUCAST 2023 resistance criteria.

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