



XVth REGIONAL CONGRESS OF THE ISBT, ATHENS

FIRST MONTHS OF USING PROCLEIX ULTRIO NUCLEIC ACID TESTING (NAT) ASSAY

Author:	A.S. Saltamavros, St. Andrews Hospital Patras Greece, Patras, Greece
Co-author: (s):	K. Alexopoulos, St. Andrews Hospital Patras Greece, Patras, Greece P. Tseliou, St. Andrews Hospital Patras Greece, Patras, Greece

Introduction

To evaluate the reliability, sensitivity and cost effectiveness of Procleix Ultrio assay (Chiron) for using it in Blood donation.

Aims

In our Blood Centre the former two months we have started applying Procleix Ultrio for Blood screening . This assay detects simultaneously HIV-1, HCV, HBV viruses.

Methods

In two months duration from all the units collected in our Blood Centre, 997 were analyzed by Procleix Ultrio and simultaneously ELISA/AXSYM was performed for all those samples.

Results

From the 997 blood units screened by NAT, 992 were found negative and 5 of them were found positive for one of the three viruses (HIV-1, HCV, HBV). With the ELISA/AXSYM assay 29 of the 992 blood units which were negative by the Procleix Ultrio assay were positive for anti-HbcAg and negative for anti-HbsAg and HbsAg. From those 29 blood units 23 units were given for transfusion following our Blood Centre protocol and the remaining 6 units were discarded. The protocol consists of a good medical history, liver enzymes (AST, ALT, GT). We must take into consideration that from those 5 that were found positive by the Procleix Ultrio assay 1 was positive for anti-HCV and 4 were positive for anti-HbsAg.

Summary/Conclusions

Despite the fact of the short period of time we perform this method, the ability of the NAT technique for rapid use, reliability and sensitivity in detecting three viruses

simultaneously, indicates the need for immediate use in Blood donation as a screening method. In spite of the high cost of the method, it is clear that this assay is a valuable tool in our Blood Centre to provide fast and safer blood.