Comparison of two commercial test kits for quantification of serum carbohydrate-deficient transferrin.

https://arctichealth.org/en/permalink/ahliterature11023

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Language: English

Publication Type: Article

Keywords: Adult
Age Factors
Alcohol Drinking
Alcoholism
Comparative Study
Evaluation Studies
Female
Humans
Male
Middle Aged
Reagent Kits, Diagnostic - standards
Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't
Sensitivity and specificity
Transferrin - analogs & derivatives - analysis

Abstract: Serum levels of carbohydrate-deficient transferrin (CDT) were measured in subjects of two independent studies using two different commercial kits. The kits measure CDT either as a percentage of total transferrin (AXIS %CDT, AXIS Biochemicals AS, Norway), or as the absolute amount (CDTect, Pharmacia, Sweden). In a population of males (mean age 41 years) consisting of alcoholics, heavy, moderate and non-drinkers, a strong correlation was found between AXIS %CDT and CDTect results (r = 0.92, n = 58, P 83% in detecting alcohol consumption levels of > or = 6 drinks per week, the sensitivities were low with both CDT assays ( or = 6 drinks per week, and or = 16 drinks per week). These results suggest that (a) both assays are equally effective in detecting chronic drinking over 60 g/day in older alcoholic males, and (b) both assays are similarly ineffective in detecting less excessive regular drinking in young males and females.

PubMed ID: 9269859 View in PubMed