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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Repeatedly washed semen stains: optimal screening and sampling strategies for DNA analysis

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Exhibits in sexual assault cases are sometimes washed before being sent to the lab
- We tested semen stain detection methods on items washed multiple times
- We also tested different washing conditions (machines, detergents, bleach)
- ALS, PSA and microscopy are effective to detect semen stains on washed items
- A genetic profile was obtained from semen stains washed 6 times with bleach

Abstract

In many sexual assault cases, bedding and clothing are essential pieces of evidence that are screened for semen stains to gather DNA from the assailant. In some cases, these items have been washed before being seized and sent to the forensic lab. However, few data exist on the optimal methods for detecting and sampling semen stains on washed fabrics. In this paper, we used semen stains washed up to six times to evaluate the efficiency of commonly used screening

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