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Preliminary Assessment of the Diagnostic Performances of a New Rapid Diagnostic Test for the Serodiagnosis of Human Cystic Echinococcosis



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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

TITLE: Preliminary Assessment of the Diagnostic Performances of a New Rapid Diagnostic Test for the Serodiagnosis of Human Cystic Echinococcosis

Running title: Assessment of a new RDT for human CE

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ABSTRACT (49 words)

Rapid Diagnostic Tests for cystic echinococcosis (CE) are convenient to support ultrasound diagnosis in uncertain cases, especially in resource-limited settings. We found comparable diagnostic performances of the experimental Hyd Rapid Test and the commercial VIRapid HYDATIDOSIS Test, used in our diagnostic laboratory, using samples from well-characterized hepatic CE cases.

KEYWORDS: Cystic echinococcosis, rapid diagnostic test, immunochromatography, serology, *Echinococcus granulosus*, diagnosis

TEXT (999 words)

Cystic echinococcosis (CE) is a neglected zoonosis prioritized by the World Health Organization for control efforts¹ caused by the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* species complex, transmitted between canids and livestock in a predator-prey cycle. CE is distributed worldwide, especially in rural livestock-raising areas, with an estimated 1.2 million people infected². Humans are accidental hosts where the cystic parasite larva develops mainly in the liver. The diagnosis of CE is based on imaging, however the broad differential diagnosis of echinococcal cysts on imaging may pose considerable clinical management problems³. Serology should have a confirmatory role in doubtful cases, but tests performances are variable and unsatisfactory, especially for the diagnosis of early CE1 and inactive CE4- CE5 stages.

The recent introduction of Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) for the serodiagnosis of CE, recently reviewed by Tamarozzi et al is particularly advantageous to rapidly complement inconclusive imaging, both in endemic

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