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Article Detail

Varicella zoster virus based real time PCR identification using a novel nucleic acid extraction method: Samples from Iraq

Author: **ANWAR SAIHOOD**, AREEJ SALIH SAIHOOD, AHMED RAHEEM RAYSHAN

Abstract: Varicella zoster virus (VZV) can cause varicella (chickenpox) infection that can be serious in people, infants and adults, who are immunocompromised. The rapid detection of the infection is important especially in the immune-weakened patients for better control of the virus. This requires finding new-shortcut-procedures that reduce the time spent for sample processing in the laboratory. Here, the current survey was intended to diagnose VZV from patients, children, Al-Diwaniyah province, Iraq. Samples, 65 patients, were collected from open blister lesions using sterile swabs. The samples were subjected to two initiating processes, a commercial kit (CK) or homogenization-heat-C3, a commercial patented solution, (HHC3) ahead of performing of a real-time PCR (RT-PCR) method. The outcomes revealed significant ($p < 0.05$) increases, as 60(92.3%) of identification, in the detection of the VZV using HHC3 methods after performing the RT-PCR especially when compared with the CK, as 52(80%) method. The sensitivity was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$), 90%, from HHC3 than that from CK, 85%. The current investigation ensures a faster processing procedure, HHC3, for detecting the Varicella zoster virus from clinical specimens than the usual methods used for nucleic acid extraction.

Keyword: Nucleic acid extraction, RT-PCR, Varicella zoster virus.

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