



Symposium 13.1

Detecting Resistant TB- What's New

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Multiresistant TB infection has evolved into a major public health problem. Rapid determination of antimicrobial resistance with appropriate treatment and control measures may potentially control the spread of these ominous organisms. Currently, automated systems and other variations of growth detection offer the advantage of rapid turnaround and being less labour-intensive than traditional assays of agar dilution. However, these growth-based methods still require recovery and isolation of MTB complex, resulting in a minimum turnaround time of 2-3 weeks upon specimen receipt. New molecular techniques promise more rapid and accurate detection of genetic mutations associated with resistance. Although these approaches are effective, several issues concerning their feasibility as routine tests must be considered and answered before implementing them in clinical laboratories.