Interlaboratory testing of porcine sera for antibodies to porcine circovirus type 2

A panel of 20 porcine sera was distributed to 5 laboratories across Europe and Canada. Each center was requested to test the sera for the presence of porcine circovirus type 2 antibodies using the routine assays, indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA) and indirect immunoperoxidase monolayer assay (IPMA), and to determine the titer of each serum. Results from all centers were then compiled and correlated. They demonstrate a wide variation in the titers obtained between laboratories. These differences were dependent on the assay used and the choice of fixative. In general, IPMA gave higher titers than did IFA, and paraformaldehyde gave higher titers than did acetone or ethyl alcohol. This report highlights the need for standardized procedures and biologicals for this virus.

General information
Publication status: Published
Organisations: Sektion for Eksotiske Virussygdomme, Division of Virology, National Veterinary Institute, Veterinary Sciences Division, Danish Veterinary Institute, Institute of Virology and Immunoprophylaxis, Ghent University, University of Saskatchewan
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Pages: 164-166
Publication date: 2004
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation
Volume: 16
Issue number: 2
ISSN (Print): 1040-6387
Ratings:
Scopus rating (2004): SJR 0.621 SNIP 0.791
Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes
Original language: English
URLs:
http://vdi.sagepub.com.globalproxy.cvt.dk/content/16/2/164.abstract
Source: orbit
Source-ID: 229522
Research output: Contribution to journal › Journal article – Annual report year: 2004 › Research › peer-review