analysed. Cross reactive samples for HSV-2 and 123 samples for HSV-1 were
Elecsys® HSV-1 and HSV-2 assays indicate that these assays are use-
100%. These assays exhibits excellent differentiation between
is that these assays are rapid and can be performed in a fully auto-
mated process.

Focus only, 10 of them became true positive at final visit. We there-
(overall prevalence: 40.9%). Of the 28 specimens positive with the
also positive in the Focus assay and considered to be true infections

Baseline with two IgG ELISAs: Kalon HSV-2 gG2 ELISA (Kalon Bio-
HerpeSelect and Kalon HSV-2 gG2 ELISA.

Type II (HSV-2). We present here the performance of the Focus
study, a phase III trial on pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV preven-
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Resolution of the discrepant results.

tics HerpeSelect, Radim HERPES S.V and Diasorin LIAISON
type specific ELISA assays.

HPV test results, in addition to histological diagnosis of a contem-
HPV identified more underlying histologically-confirmed high-grade

The performance of the Elecsys® HSV-1 and HSV-2 assays 310 potentially
cross reactive samples for HSV-2 and 123 samples for HSV-1 were

The results obtained with the type specific Roche Elecsys®
HSV-1 and HSV-2 assays indicate that these assays are use-
ful, specific and sensitive for the differential determination of HSV-1
and HSV-2 IgG antibodies in serum or plasma samples. The advan-
tage of the Roche Elecsys® assays compared to ELISA based assays,
is that these assays are rapid and can be performed in a fully auto-
mated process.

Background Specimens collected in Pretoria for the FEM-PrEP
study, a phase III trial on pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV preven-
tion among African women, were tested for Herpes Simplex Virus
type II (HSV-2). We present here the performance of the Focus HerpeSelect and Kalon HSV-2 gG2 ELISA.

Methods The HSV-2 infection was determined in 701 women at
baseline with two IgG ELISAs: Kalon HSV-2 gG2 ELISA (Kalon Bio-
logicals Ltd.) and HerpeSelect HSV IgG ELISA (Focus Technologies).
Participants were considered true positive for HSV-2 when specimens
were reactive in both assays. In order to determine incident HSV-2
infections during the study, specimens collected at final visit (i.e. after
52 weeks/at product interruption visit) of participants being HSV-2
seronegative at baseline were tested using the same assays.

Results At baseline, 287 and 315 positive results were found using
the Kalon- and Focus assay, respectively. All Kalon positives were
also positive in the Focus assay and considered to be true infections
(initial prevalence: 40.9%). Of the 28 specimens positive with the
Focus only, 10 of them became true positive at final visit. We there-
fore assume that the Kalon missed 10 infections and, the Focus
detected falsely 18 positives at baseline, resulting in a final HSV-2
prevalence of 42.4% at baseline. At final visit, an additional 33 new
infections were found. At baseline we obtained a sensitivity of
100% (95% CI: 98.8–100) and 96.6% (95% CI: 93.9–98.4) and a spec-
ificity of 95.5% (95% CI: 93.1–97.3) and 100% (95% CI: 99.1–100)
for Focus and Kalon respectively.

Conclusion Although our study confirms the assay performance
findings of previous studies in Sub-Saharan countries, we found less
pronounced differences in terms of sensitivity and specificity of
both assays using the cut-off as prescribed by the manufacturers.
The prevalence of HSV-2 found in our study corresponds to previ-
ously reported results.

Comparison of Cobas® 4800 HPV assay to Digene
Hybrid Capture 2, Roche Linear Array, and
Amplicor in the Detection of High-Risk Human
Papillomavirus Genotypes in Women with
Previous Abnormal Pap Smears


Introduction Cobas® 4800 HPV assay has been evaluated as a
screening and triage application recently. The aim of this study was
to evaluate the performance of the Cobas® 4800 HPV assay for the
detection and identification of high-risk (HR) HPV genotypes after
treatment of high grade lesion by comparison with the Hybrid Cap-
ture 2® (HC2), Amplicor (Amp), and Linear Array (LA) HPV tests.

Methods Four hundred and six PreservCyt® specimens from
women undergoing management for a high-grade Pap abnormality
were evaluated and results compared with the HC2, Amp, and LA
HPV test results, in addition to histological diagnosis of a contem-
poraneously collected biopsy.

Results The sensitivity in detection of underlying high-grade his-
tological diagnosis by Cobas® 4800 HPV was 90.6%, for HC2 86.1%,
whilst for Amp and LA 92.9% and 91.8% respectively. Restricting
detection of Cobas® 4800 HPV to only types 16 and 18 resulted in
sensitivity of 60.0%. Detection of HR genotypes by Cobas® 4800
HPV showed a concordance of 86.9%, 96.1%, and 96.3% when com-
pared to HC2, Amp and LA respectively. Detection of HPV 16 and
18 by Cobas® 4800 HPV showed a concordance of 97.3% and 99%
respectively when compared to LA.

Conclusion The performance of Cobas® 4800 HPV was equivalent
to the Amp and LA HPV tests for HR HPV detection. Cobas® 4800
HPV identified more underlying histologically-confirmed high-grade
lesions than the HC2 HPV test, with the added advantage of identi-
fiying HPV 16 and 18 genotypes present.

immune activation after stimulation with
Cryptococcus neoformans antigens pre and post
art initiation in hiv-1 positive ugandans


Background Cryptococcus meningitis immune reconstitution
inflammatory syndrome (CM-IRIS) is a medical condition that
complicates recovery from immunodeficiency as a result of anti ret-
roviral therapy (ART) in patients living with Human Immunodefi-
ency Virus type 1 (HIV-1) in the sub Saharan Africa region.