

External quality control results of urine dip-slide devices

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Urinary tract infections are frequently diagnosed by using urine dip-slide devices, especially in medical practices and small laboratories. We performed a retrospective analysis of more than 3000 results obtained by several urine dip-slide devices during external quality control surveys. We found that an underestimation of bacterial counts and a difficulty in identifying mixed flora were relatively more frequent in medical practices than in specialized laboratories, and that regular participation in external quality control surveys correlates with better performances.