Developing UK NEQAS material for the measurement of Red Cell Distribution Width & Mean Platelet Volume

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Why develop a UK NEQAS scheme for RDW & MPV?

- RDW-CV (%), RDW-SD (fl) and MPV (fl) routinely reported as part of FBC
- Parameters of increasing clinical importance
- No UK-based EQA scheme for RDW and MPV
- No previous publications on artificial manipulation of RDW and MPV
1. Baseline study
Data review of previous UK FBC surveys:

- Can existing UK NEQAS survey material be used for RDW and MPV measurement?

2. Experimental research
Develop novel ways of survey material manipulation:

- Can RDW and MPV be artificially altered to give abnormal values?
- Is the novel material stable for duration of UK NEQAS FBC survey?
- Can it be included within the UK NEQAS FBC survey?
1. Baseline Study
1. Baseline study - Data review

CV% for RDW-SD, RDW-CV and MPV over the course of six UK NEQAS (H) FBC surveys

UK NEQAS
International Quality Expertise
2. Experimental design and stability studies
2. Experimental design - Material manipulation

Red Cell Distribution Width

Method 1
Human adult blood and cord blood were mixed at ratios ranging from 10:0 to 0:10.

Method 2
Heat-treated (15h at 45°C) and non-heat-treated adult blood was mixed at ratios ranging from 10:0 to 0:10.

Mean Platelet Volume

Method 1
Aliquots were incubated for 6h at room temperature with varying EDTA conc. (ranging from 0 – 40 mg/5ml blood).

Method 2
Aliquots were incubated for 4h at 4°C, 21°C or 37°C with native equine tendon type I collagen (conc. ranging from 10 - 40 µg/5ml blood).

PARTIAL FIXATION
Stability assessment

- FBC performed on all aliquots according to examination schedule designed to mimic UK NEQAS (H) FBC survey cycle:
  - Assessed effect on RDW-CV, RDW-SD and MPV as well as other FBC parameters (CV ≤ 5%)
  - Measurements undertaken on Sysmex (XE-2100™) technology only
Results
• RDW-CV reference range: 10 – 16% (adult males and females)
Stability assessment for RDW method 1
Results – RDW method 2

RDW Method 2 Results

- RDW-CV reference range: 10 – 16% (adult males and females)
Results – MPV method 1 and method 2

MPV reference range:
7.4 fl - 11.5 fl (for adult males and females)
Baseline study:

- Existing material is suitable for performance assessment of RDW and MPV

Research:

- RDW method 1:
  - Ratios from 5:5 to 1:9 (adult:cord) recommended to UK NEQAS
  - Feasible design
  - All other FBC parameters appear stable

- RDW method 2:
  - Not recommended at this stage

- MPV method 1 & 2:
  - Not recommended at this stage
What’s next?

- Scale up to 1 litre and 5 litres
- Assess RDW and MPV when prepared in large quantities
- Extension to other technologies (Beckman Coulter®, SIEMENS)
- Pilot exercise
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