

Evaluation report

Executive summary

Total PSA assays

CEP 08013

April 2008



The product

The total prostate specific antigen (total PSA) test is a tumour marker for prostate cancer that is routinely available on the majority of mainline laboratory immunoassay analysers.

Field of use

Total PSA is used both to monitor patients with prostate cancer and to screen asymptomatic men who request a test.

Methods

GMEC and UK National External Quality Assessment Service (UK NEQAS) for Immunology have developed a monitoring programme to assess the comparability of results and the equimolarity of total PSA assays currently used in UK laboratories. Participants of the UK NEQAS PSA programme measured a panel of samples as an EQA exercise. Results from these samples were anonymised and returned to GMEC for data analysis.

Technical performance

In this report we present data on the accuracy and equimolarity, at the low end of the analytical range, for 17 total PSA assays.

CEP verdict

Compared with previous similar studies our results show that changes made to assays by manufacturers in recent years have resulted in improved method comparability in the range studied.

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