

TITLE: DIAGNOSIS OF DENGUE IN ENDEMIC AREA: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE USE OF TESTING SUITABLE FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CASES.

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ABSTRACT:

In Brazil in 2018, there were 241,664 probable cases of dengue, with an incidence of 115.9 cases/100 thousand inhabitants. Laboratory diagnosis is essential to complete the case in epidemiological surveys. Rapid tests for dengue that detect antibodies through a small blood sample have been widely used in primary healthcare and in hospitals. However, the benefit of the diagnosis for the individual healthcare, or to Dengue outbreaks detection or vector control measurement is positivity test linked; the false negative cases difficult the contingency measures to avoid the epidemics and the correct patient clinical management. The objective of this study was to identify the positivity of the rapid tests in the dengue phase, which the dengue patients looking-for healthcare unit. The serum samples tested at the health unit with rapid test, collected at the time of the consultation and after 7 days were sent to the Laboratory of Research in Health Sciences of the Federal University of Grande Dourados, where they were analyzed by the immunoabsorption assay enzyme (IgM-ELISA). A total of 160 serum samples were analyzed over a period of one year, of which 128 were from patients with less than five days of symptoms. Five samples were from patients with five symptom days and 27 samples were from patients with more than five days of symptoms. When comparing the results of the serological tests seven dengue negative samples in the rapid test were positive for dengue in the ELISA (IgM). And, five samples with five days of symptoms were negative in the ELISA (IgM) and positive in ELISA after seven days of symptoms of the same patients. The results show a discrepancy of positivity between the tests, related to the ideal phase for its application. It was also possible to conclude that the majority of patients seeking medical care are in the fever stage of the disease. At this stage rapid testing and even the ELISA has little sensitivity. It is concluded that the majority of patients with Dengue seek medical care in the initial phase of the disease, being ideal the use of a complementary molecular test or a single test, more suitable for early diagnosis in the early stage of the disease, since the correct early diagnosis guides control measures and decisions in public health.

Key words: dengue, diagnosis, rapid test, elisa.

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