UK Health Security Agency

Monkeypox Virus Inactivation Testing Report

Report identifier	HCM/MPx/014/v1
Report date	30 August 2022
Testing laboratory	High Containment Microbiology, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Product details	
Product name	Xpert CT/NG Swab Transport Reagent from Xpert Vaginal/Endocervical Specimen Collection Kit N.B. Product was decanted into a secondary vessel prior to submission to laboratory for inactivation testing
Product code	SWAB/A-50 (Xpert Vaginal/Endocervical Specimen Collection Kit)
Batch number	2115212
Manufacturer	Cepheid
Storage conditions	Ambient temperature
Active substances and concentrations (if known)	Ammonium chloride (5-8%), Potassium carbonate (0.5-1.5%)
Instructions for use	Swab resuspended in tube containing Xpert CT/NG Swab Transport Reagent

Experimental conditions	
Period of analysis	23 – 30 August 2022
Product test concentrations	10 volumes buffer to 1 volumes test sample
Test temperature	Ambient
Treatment times tested	10 minutes; 30 minutes
Sample type tested and virus details	Monkeypox virus stock: monkeypox virus isolate UK2 (GenBank entry MT903344), in tissue culture fluid containing 5% foetal bovine serum
Description of test	Triplicate samples of monkeypox virus tissue culture fluid were treated with product at the indicated test concentration for indicated contact times. Mock-treatments were carried out in triplicate using an equivalent volume of Minimum Essential Medium (MEM, Gibco) instead of product. After treatment, all samples were subjected to a filtration step to reduce cytotoxic buffer components, using Pierce Detergent Removal Resin in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. MEM-treated samples were subjected to the same filtration procedure in parallel. All samples were immediately titrated on Vero E6 cells and plates immunostained using an anti-vaccinia virus antibody to establish virus titre. Product only controls (purified and unpurified) were additionally titrated to determine product cytotoxicity before and after filtration. This test is quantitative and reports the virus titre for each treatment condition in focus forming units (FFU)/mL. Reduction in virus titre following treatment is given as the difference between the mean $\log_{10}$ FFU/mL for treated conditions and the MEM control.

Table of results

Treatment condition	Mean virus titre in FFU/mL	Mean virus titre in log_{10} FFU/mL [95% CI]	Titre reduction in log_{10} FFU/mL [95% CI]	% reduction in virus titre
MEM-treated	$5.73x10^5$	5.8 [5.5-6.0]	-	-
10-minute treatment	$1.06x10^6$	6.0 [5.9-6.1]	-0.3 [-0.5-0.0]	No reduction detected
30-minute treatment	$8.71x10^5$	5.9 [5.6-6.3]	-0.2 [-0.4-0.1]	No reduction detected

Results interpretation and limitations

Treatment with Xpert CT/NG Swab Transport Reagent for 30 minutes failed to inactivate monkeypox virus in this test. This product should not be relied upon to inactivate monkeypox virus.

This test has been performed using tissue culture fluid. The effectiveness of this treatment against monkeypox virus may vary when used to inactivate clinical samples or other types of sample matrix.

Nucleic acid stability in this product has not been examined, nor has the suitability of this product for inactivation of other pathogens been evaluated in this study.

Disclaimer
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Summary of revisions
Version 1: New document