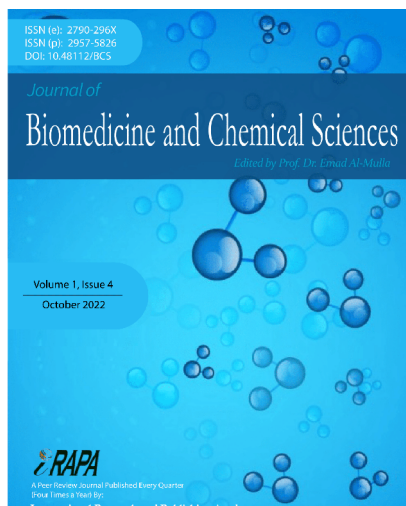


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Volume 1, Issue 4 (July 2022)

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Conventional PCR versus Culture Method to Detect Common Fungal Pathogens in Patients with Respiratory Diseases

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ISSN(e): 2790-296X

ISSN(p): 2957-5826

DOI:
10.48112/bcs.v1i4.235DiID:
pub.1151938741

About the Journal

Editor in Chief:
Prof. Dr. Emad Al-Mulla

Frequency:
BCS is published quarterly

Publisher:
International Research and Publishing Academy

Co-Publisher:
Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University - Iraq

Editorial Office:
Commercial Plot 33 Millennium Plaza, G-15 Markaz, Margalla 02, Islamabad, Pakistan

✧ Abstract

✧ Graphical Abstract

✧ References

✧ Cited by

The study aimed to assess the frequency of invasive fungal infection in patients with respiratory diseases by conventional and molecular methods. This study included 117 Broncho alveolar lavage (BAL) samples were collected from patients with respiratory disease (79 male and 38 female) with ages ranged between (20-80) years, who attended Medicine Baghdad Teaching hospital and AL-Emamain AL-Khadhymian Medical City, during the period from September 2019 to April 2020. The results in PCR versus culture methods in this study showed that out of 117 samples of fungal infections 30(25.6 %) were detected by culture method, while the 24(20.5%) samples were detected by PCR technique, the most commonly diagnosed pathogenic fungi is *Candida* spp. followed by *Aspergillus* spp. By considering the culture method as a gold standard against the PCR technique, the results show that the sensitivity and specificity of PCR were (86.6%) and (100%) respectively.

Keywords: fungal infection, respiratory disease, PCR technique, conventional methods, ITS

How to Cite:

Rashied, H. J., Al-Attraqchi, A. A., & Muhmmed, A. K. (2022). Conventional PCR versus Culture Method to Detect Common Fungal Pathogens in Patients with Respiratory Diseases. *Biomedicine and Chemical Sciences*, 1(4), 225–233.
<https://doi.org/10.48112/bcs.v1i4.235>

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Keywords Cloud

ascorbic acid Barbituric acid
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