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Isentio and Haukeland University Hospital initiate brain abscess study using RipSeq(R) Mixed

Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway is heading up a national, multi-center study on bacterial brain abscesses, involving all Neurosurgical clinics in Norway. The bacterial content of these important clinical specimens will be analyzed with broad-range amplification of the bacterial 16S rRNA gene followed by DNA sequencing for identification. To solve the problems related to poly-bacterial samples, the RipSeq(R) Mixed software from Isentio AS will be used.

Brain or cerebral abscesses are life-threatening infections localized to one or more areas in the brain. The serious nature of these infections necessitates fast and adequate diagnostic tools to improve prognosis and reduce the risk for post-infectious sequelae.

The RipSeq software from Isentio enables identification of multiple bacteria directly after sequencing of the clinical samples. "New in this study is that we have modified the pre-sequencing protocol to using group specific primers, an approach that we recently published in Journal of Medical Microbiology" says Dr. Øyvind Kommedal, CMO of Isentio. The group specific primers split the bacteria into three groups and, together with RipSeq, enable identification of up to nine different bacteria in a sample within seconds after sequencing. "We and others have demonstrated a surprising complexity in these infections which is not at all reflected by traditional bacterial culture. Culture of important pathogens fails either due to their fastidious nature or because of antimicrobial treatment initiated prior to sample collection" Dr. Kommedal adds.

"This project aims at mapping the bacterial content of these serious infections. Better diagnostics can lead to more targeted treatment for the individual patient, but can also contribute to changes in empiric therapy and increase our understanding of these frequently complex poly-bacterial conditions" says Dr. Christian Helland, Department of Neurosurgery, Haukeland University Hospital.

The other participating hospitals in this national study are: Oslo University Hospital, St. Olav Hospital and University Hospital of North Norway.

About Isentio AS (www.isentio.com)

Isentio offers unique, online software solutions to facilitate analysis, interpretation and management of DNA sequencing data. RipSeq sequence-based analysis reduces the time needed to identify infectious pathogens, in single or poly-microbial samples, by up to 90% and provides answers where other methods fail. Fast, precise pathogen identification supports selection of optimal antibiotic regimens with the potential to reduce health care costs.

Link to the publication '*Characterization of polybacterial clinical samples using a set of group-specific broad-range primers targeting the 16S rRNA gene followed by DNA sequencing and RipSeq analysis*', J. of Med Microbiology. (<http://jmm.sgmjournals.org/content/early/2011/03/24/jmm.0.028373-0.abstract>)

NOTE: RipSeq is for research use only.

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