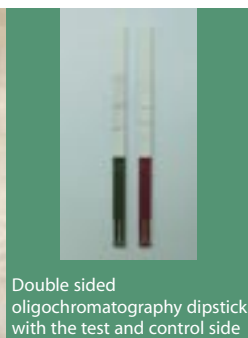


TRYLEIDIAG: Simplified and rapid molecular assays for diagnosis of Leishmaniasis and Human African Trypanosomiasis and parasite (sub-)species identification



Mother and child suffering from late stage sleeping sickness and treated in Dipumba hospital, R.D. Congo



Double sided oligochromatography dipstick with the test and control side

TRYLEIDIAG is a STREP within the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission with nine partners, five from Europe and four from Africa.

Development and validation of novel point-of-care and laboratory tests for molecular diagnosis of Leishmaniasis and Human African Trypanosomiasis.

Human African Trypanosomiasis is caused by *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* or *T. b. rhodesiense*. Leishmaniasis is caused by several species of *Leishmania*. In the absence of prophylactics or vaccines, control of both diseases is based on diagnosis and treatment of patients. Since parasitaemia can be extremely low and parasite detection can only be performed by trained personnel, many infected persons remain undiagnosed and thus a human reservoir of the disease. Treatment involves the use of (sub-)species specific and stage-specific drugs. Some of the used drugs are associated with severe adverse effects.

Recent innovations in molecular diagnosis such as isothermal RT-PCR (NASBA), rRNA hybridization with PNA, LNA or other probes and lateral flow detection of PCR and RT-PCR products have opened perspectives for robust and rapid point-of-care molecular tests as an alternative for parasitological diagnosis in LEI and HAT together with the potential of differentiating species and subspecies in one test.

Activities within the project are divided between complementary partners within the consortium. Thus, laboratory and field studies allow the development and the evaluation of the diagnostic tests. Partners conform to current legislation and regulations in the countries where the research is carried out and they have the approval of the relevant ethical committees.

The new diagnostic tools developed within TRYLEIDIAG will have impact on disease control at four levels:

- Improvement of case-finding and case-management with appropriate treatment.
- Improvement of disease and treatment failure surveillance since diagnostic tools will improve systematic screening of communities at risk.
- Improvement of efficacy monitoring in clinical trials since diagnostic tools will be highly specific and sensitive.
- Contribution to institutional research capacity in African countries through North-South Co-operation and regional exchanges allowing new dialogues, technology transfer and policy development.

Project information

Acronym: TRYLEIDIAG

Full title: Simplified and rapid molecular assays for diagnosis of Leishmaniasis and Human African Trypanosomiasis and parasite (sub-)species identification.

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The Scientific Co-ordinator:

Philippe Büscher
Institute of Tropical Medicine
Nationalestraat 155, 2000 Antwerpen, BELGIUM
Tel. +32 3 247 63 71
Fax. +32 3 247 63 73
email: pbuscher@itg.be

The project Manager:

Jérôme Weinbach
Inserm-Transfert
7 Rue Watt, 75 013 Paris, FRANCE
Tel. +33 1 55 03 01 39
Fax. +33 1 55 03 01 60
jerome.weinbach@inserm-transfert.fr

List of Partners

CORIS Bioconcept, Belgium
Inserm-Transfert, France
Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale, Democratic Republic of Congo
Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde, Belgium
Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya
Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen, The Netherlands
Makerere University, Uganda
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
University of Khartoum, Sudan

Website: www.tryleidiag.org

Project Officer:

Albrecht Jahn

| participant | researcher | address | tel/fax | email |
|--|----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde | Philippe Büscher | Nationalestraat 155, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium | T. +32 3 247 63 71 F. +32 247 63 73 | pbuscher@itg.be |
| Coris BioConcept | Thierry Leclipteux | 4A, rue Jean Sonet, 5032 Gembloux, Belgium | T. +32 81 71 99 11 F. +32 81 71 99 19 Mobile: +32 478 47 00 78 | thleclipteux@corisbio.com |
| Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen | Henk Schallig | Meibergdreef 39, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands | T. +31 20 5665447 F. +31 20 6971841 | h.schallig@kit.nl |
| University of Copenhagen | Peter Ejgil Nielsen | Blegdamsvej 3, 2200 Copenhagen, Denmark | T. +45 35 327762 F. +45 35 396042 | pen@imbj.ku.dk |
| Makerere University | George Lubega | Makerere Hill Road, PO Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda | T. +256 41 53 30 02 F. +256 41 53 43 36 | glubega@inforconco.ug |
| Kenya Medical Research Institute | Monique Wasunna | Mbagathi road PO Box 20778, 00202 Nairobi, Kenya | T. +254 20 272 25 41 F. +254 20 272 00 30 | mwasunna@kemi.ug |
| University of Khartoum | Sayda El Safi | Gasr Street, PO Box 102, Khartoum, Sudan | T. +249 183 77 50 72 F. +249 183 78 78 16 | shelsaf@yahoo.com |
| Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale | Jean-Jacques Muyembe | Avenue de la Démocratie, PO Box 1197, Kinshasa, D.R. Congo | Mobile: +243 89 49 289 | jmuyembe@yahoo.fr |
| Inserm-Transfert | Jérôme Weinbach | 7 Rue Watt, 75 013 Paris, France | T. +33 1 55 03 01 39 F. +33 1 55 03 01 60 | jerome.weinbach@inserm-transfert.fr |