ABSTRACT

SAMPLE PROCESSING METHOD FOR MYCOBACTERIA

Methods for processing samples which may contain mycobacteria which are compatible with both conventional culturing techniques and nucleic acid analysis. It has been found that the harsh chemical treatment previously thought necessary to obtain efficient lysis can be eliminated without loss of lysis efficiency, thereby eliminating reagents which may inhibit subsequent nucleic acid-based reactions. Heat alone is sufficient to lyse mycobacteria, even in buffers which do not contain detergents, chelators, enzymes, etc. Residual reagents introduced by conventional sample processing methods for culture can be successfully removed from the processed pellet without significant loss of microorganisms by at least two washings with saline, water, or buffers compatible with nucleic acid analysis and appropriate centrifugation.