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Rapid Identification of *Staphylococcus aureus*

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Langlet and coinvestigators from Service de Microbiologie, Centre hospitalier de Versailles, France, have reported a 2-hour method for identification of *Staphylococcus aureus* based on the detection of the staphylocoagulase, using human prothrombin and a chromogenic substrate. Two hundred forty-two staphylococcal strains (160

S. aureus, 82 coagulase-negative staphylococci [CNS]) were collected from four French hospitals. A strain of *Staphylococcus intermedius* was provided by the Collection of the Pasteur Institute (Paris).

With the substrate SQ149, all *S. aureus* strains gave a positive result: 94.7% of the methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* were detected after 1 hour of incubation, but only 52.3% of the methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*. For methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*, 98.4%

were detected after 2 hours. No false-positive result was observed for the 82 CNS strains. The chromogenic method showed good within-run and day-to-day precision tests. The sensitivity and the specificity were 99.4% and 100%, respectively.

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