

Identification of Pathogenic *Neisseria* Species with the RapID NH System

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The RapID NH system (Innovative Diagnostics Systems, Inc., Decatur, Ga.) is a 4-h test used in the identification of *Neisseria* and *Haemophilus* species. The system was evaluated for accuracy and reliability and compared with conventional (cystine proteose peptone agar; Prepared Media Laboratory, Tualatin, Ore.) carbohydrate degradation tests with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *N. meningitidis*, as well as a variety of *Neisseria*, *Branhamella*, and *Moraxella* species. The RapID NH system correctly identified all *N. gonorrhoeae*, *N. meningitidis*, and *N. lactamica* isolates, but the level of accuracy varied considerably for the remaining organisms. One strain of *N. subflava* was misidentified as a pathogenic *Neisseria* strain. The RapID NH tests were concluded in 4 h, whereas the cystine proteose peptone agar tests required up to 48 h for results to be useful. The RapID NH system is an accurate, reliable, and useful method for the identification of pathogenic *Neisseria* species. It has been proven that it shortens identification time and specimen turnaround time by at least 24 h.