

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the results of the Rapid NH tests for identification of *Neisseria* and *Branhamella* species. All isolates of *N. gonorrhoeae*, *N. meningitidis*, *Branhamella catarrhalis*, *N. lactamica*, and *N. mucosa* were correctly identified at 4 h with the Rapid NH system. Isolates of *N. sicca* (4 of 7) and of *N. subflava* (8 of 10) were correctly identified, for an overall accuracy

contrast to the current 48 to 96 h customarily required. Our experience has shown that at least 24 h less time is needed to report a positive gonococcal culture. The accuracy of the system is impressive, and the system has been proven to be superior to conventional carbohydrate degradation tests. It can be used equally well in large-volume and small-volume laboratories. Since the reagents are dehydrated, the system takes up a minimum of storage space, and the reagents have a longer shelf life (at least 1 year) than do tubed media (6 to 7 months).

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