

# Sebia Focus - N°3

October 2012



capillarys  
sebia flex piercing

## Routine use of the Sebia HbA1c assay with the CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing at the ANALYSIS Lefaire-Petit Laboratory in Epinal: A story of successful integration

**Dr. Christophe Petit - a pharmacist-biologist by training and former Managing Director of F.Lab - currently holds the position of Director at the ANALYSIS Lefaire-Petit Medical Biology Analysis Laboratory in Epinal.**

**Dr Petit, can you briefly describe the Lefaire-Petit Laboratory to us?**

The Lefaire-Petit Laboratory is located in the town of Épinal (Vosges), in the Lorraine region of France. It has a total of 130 employees at six different sites. The laboratory performs general biological analyses and offers toxicology and genetic screening services. It forms part of the ANALYSIS laboratories group, which is comprised of six laboratories in the Vosges Mountains.

**What were the problems you were facing? Why did you agree to test the SEBIA HbA1c assay on the CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing?**

We previously used HPLC (High Performance Liquid Phase Chromatography) as our analytical separation technique. We considered this technique to be the reference technique. However, over the years we started to notice certain shortfalls in the technique, a lack of patient traceability in particular. We were therefore ready to test a new method that would instil more confidence in us when SEBIA asked us to assess their CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing system for the determination of glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c).

We agreed because we have known about Sebia for several years and have confidence in their expertise.

**How did the evaluation of this method proceed? How did SEBIA manage to convince you? What was the outcome?**



*"Our technicians found it easy to familiarise themselves with this new system and were impressed by how simple the software interface was to use."  
Dr Christophe Petit*

Our main aim was to improve the quality and traceability of our analyses. We therefore conducted an evaluation of the CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing system on nearly 300 samples over the period of one week and were completely satisfied with the results.

Our technicians found it easy to familiarise themselves with the new system and were impressed by how simple the software interface was to use. It also soon became apparent just how good the results interpretation quality was, and it was clear that this method

was more effective in detecting certain variants than other methods (such as the HPLC).

sebia

The CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing allows the results to be interpreted more explicitly when there are haemoglobin variants, as they are well isolated. The separation is clear and precise, making the results more reliable. The results are also obtained quickly, in series of eight. The first can be validated in twenty minutes, the rest at twelve minute intervals.

**Has the SEBIA CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing system met your expectations for HbA1c testing? Does it integrate well into your laboratory?**

Yes, completely. It has been a year now since we started using the CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing device for our analysis and we are very satisfied. The transition to this new technology has been very easy and really very successful.

**What is the added medical value of this new technology in your opinion?**

The added value is undoubtedly clearer interpretation of the results. The CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing ensures better detection of haemoglobin variants and, as a result, limits the errors in calculating glycated haemoglobin. This is very important for monitoring diabetic patients. The results are more accurate, which enables us to manage glycaemic control in diabetics more effectively. Lastly, the old method that we used (HPLC), did not offer us long-term traceability with charts, patient data and so on. This has all changed with this device.

**Despite the fact that the people of the Vosges region present a probable low prevalence of haemoglobin variants, have you had the opportunity to identify some of them and how did you like the clarity of the HbA1c test on the CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing device?**

Yes, we are using it to identify haemoglobin variants on an ongoing daily basis. It is also possible to clearly separate the HbA1c fraction from other physiological haemoglobin fractions, as well as any interfering substances. We can therefore clearly isolate HbA2 as well as the other most frequent haemoglobin variants, and even certain rare variants that co-elute with HbA0 when using the HPLC method.

**In your opinion, what is the key point that would make you to recommend this method to other laboratories?**

The CAPILLARYS 2 Flex Piercing offers a more modern analysis method that is easier to use and interpret when carrying out HbA1c tests. The integration algorithms are more relevant and the device produces clear, accurate results. The performance of this method is not only down to the technology itself, but also SEBIA's technical know-how.

