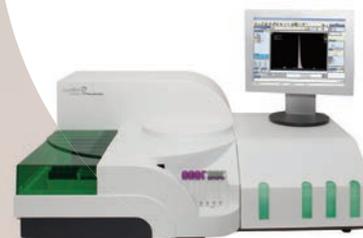


Sebia Focus - N°16

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capillary
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SEBIA's global solution

Interview of Dr. GUIMO, Laboratoire Bioxa, Reims, France

Dr GUIMO, could you please introduce yourself and describe the organization and the activity of BIOXA laboratory?

The Bioxa laboratory was formed from the merger of several laboratories in Reims. The Lab currently includes seven sites in Reims and one at Epernay. It is directed by 14 associated biologists, assisted by two medical biologists, and about 200 FTE (full time equivalents) personnel. We handle an average daily activity of 2,300 patients. The patient testing is spread over several sites. The structure of testing is reflective of the pre-merger testing structure, organizational constraints, and the availability of specialized teams. The upcoming construction of a new facility in Reims clinical group will result in a complete reorganization.

Can you please detail all the tests you perform by electrophoresis in your laboratory and the organization of this activity?

The Champ de Mars performs 48,500 annual HbA1c tests Monday to Saturday. Additionally, we perform 10,500 annual protein electrophoresis tests, 3,200 immunotyping and immunofixation tests, and 700 urine protein analysis tests Monday to Friday. We use the Urine Profile Agarose gel to allow for the typing of renal disease and Bence Jones Proteins. Twice a week we perform testing for 2,500 annual CDT tests and 200 annual CSF isoelectric focusing tests. We have three CAPILLARYS 2 FLEX-PIERCING instruments; two of which operate in parallel and alternate protein electrophoresis and HbA1c testing weekly. The

CAPILLARYS used for protein electrophoresis is also used to perform Immunotyping and CDT testing in the same week. Thus, these two instruments are validated to operate in a back-up configuration. Our third CAPILLARYS 2 FLEX-PIERCING analyzer is dedicated to HbA1c testing. Regarding the agarose gel, we have the ASSIST instrument, the automated pipetting station, and one HYDRASYS 2 and one HYDRASYS 2 SCAN. We have three technicians qualified to perform this entire electrophoresis testing.

Sebia is a major partner for your Laboratory - how do the services provided by Sebia help you in your daily activity?

Personally I have worked with Sebia since opening my own laboratory in 1997. Our equipment line has evolved with Sebia's advancements in technology (we have used capillary electrophoresis since 2003). We are very pleased with our partnership with Sebia in regards to both the instruments and the innovations. We routinely ask the Sebia Scientific and

Technical support teams for their interpretation of more complex protein electrophoresis patterns or in the event of an unexpected discovery of an atypical hemoglobin variant in the HbA1c program. We also used documentations and protocols proposed by Sebia for the accreditation process (Audit Cofrac conducted in January 2015 without any critical points).



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Bioxa Laboratory, France

You have chosen to achieve the HbA1c measurement on the CAPILLARYS 2 FLEX-PIERCING instrument. Which factors have driven your choice to utilize capillary electrophoresis technology?

When it became necessary to replace our TOSOH instrument, I naturally thought about Sebia, who had already contacted me about their capillary technology. The competition was intense between the two vendors. Nevertheless, the consolidation with the protein testing, the ease of use, the high resolution profiles and the absence of interference from hemoglobin variants tipped the balance in favor of Sebia. The CAPILLARYS 2 FLEX-PIERCING instrument is easy to use. We can send the normal and pathological HbA1c profiles directly to the LIS. We retain the atypical profiles with hemoglobin variants in order to provide a more detailed analysis and provide informative comments to the physicians and patients. This strategy of interpretation is very efficient and reduces the validation time while ensuring accurate results for our patients.

You also have Sebia instrumentation for agarose gel electrophoresis: ASSIST and HYDRASYS 2 SCAN. These instruments are especially used for some specialized analyses such as renal diseases typing, Bence Jones proteins in urine or the CSF isoelectric focusing. Can you briefly describe these tests? Who are the main prescribers of these analyses?

The prescribers for urine analyses (typing of renal disease and Bence Jones proteins) are essentially hematologists, looking to monitor monoclonal gammopathies. Nephrologists, also utilize our test results as well as a growing share of general practitioners. Regarding the CSF isoelectric focusing test, the aim is to find a possible intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis. This test is prescribed predominantly by neurologists in the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

What are the advantages to provide this specialized analysis to your prescribers?

Offering specialized analysis helps us establish an interesting partnership with groups of medical specialists and allows us to respond to their needs. For example, we always have special relationships with neurologists of the Courlancy group. We have implemented the CSF isoelectric focusing test because of their demands and we increased from 40 - 50 tests per year at the beginning to just over 200 tests today. This increased activity proves they are satisfied with this service knowing that we can quickly provide an accurate result.

What are your futures projects are being considered in the electrophoresis sector of your laboratory?

The process of accreditation has been one of our priorities. The audit was done in January 2015 and the outcome of Cofrac audit (French committee of accreditation) was positive. Since June, the laboratory has received a 4 year accreditation for protein electrophoresis and HbA1c assays. We are currently undergoing discussion to propose the hemoglobin electrophoresis to our physicians and clients.