



Molecular techniques

Molecular Diagnostic Techniques: Overview

A multimedia reference program for laboratory personnel and their clients

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Diagnostic techniques are in a time of change. Molecular diagnostic techniques have evolved in step with the discoveries of molecular biology over the past twenty-five years.

Molecular techniques are more sensitive than classical techniques, and more specific. In contrast to classical diagnostic techniques, molecular methods use reagents and reactions derived from living organisms. They open up a whole spectrum of new tools and approaches to the challenging task of diagnosing animal disease. As recent outbreaks of major diseases show, rapid and accurate diagnosis is a fundamental requirement in the prevention and management of major epizootic outbreaks.

The challenge of using molecular techniques lies in the additional levels of training commonly needed for those using them, together with specialist equipment. This **Overview** program is an essential resource for those in need of that training, and can be used by laboratory personnel for their ongoing reference. It can be used stand alone, but is also designed to be used in conjunction with the Advanced Veterinary Information System (AVIS) and Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP).

Contents include:

- Biological Background: A tutorial in the basics of DNA
- Self-assessment: test your basic knowledge
- Diagnostic Techniques: A step by step guide to key techniques such as ELISA and PCR
- Further Reading

This **Overview** is the first in a series on **Molecular Diagnostic Techniques** that will extend to cover in greater depth:

Nucleic acid-based techniques
Antibody-based techniques
Monoclonal antibodies.

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