

Use of Adenosine Deaminase for the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis: A Review

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ABSTRACT

The current methods for the diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) do not provide enough sensitivity and specificity. Adenosine deaminase (ADA) has been developed and widely used for the diagnosis of TB. This article reviews the characteristics, metabolism and clinical uses of ADA for the diagnosis of TB in clinical practices. ADA is an enzyme that increases in TB because of the stimulation of T-cell lymphocytes by mycobacterial antigens. There is sufficient data supporting yield of ADA in various body fluids for the diagnosis of TB. ADA may be used for early diagnosis of TB, especially in case of negative AFB smear from the body specimens. (*J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents* 2010;27:111-8.)

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