

Table 2. Summary of diagnostic tests and their performance in the diagnosis of Cytomegalovirus infection

Test name	Detects	Specimen used	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Time for result (days)	Disease state
Serology	IgG or IgM	Blood	-	-	< 1	Past infection
Conventional tube cell culture	CMV- infected cells	Blood Tissue Urine	-	-	2-21	Active
Shell vial assay	Immediate early viral antigen	Blood	8-63	86-88	1-2	Active
PCR	Viral DNA	Serum/plasma PBC* Tissue Urine BAL† CSF‡	50-100 20-100 - - - -	45-62 35-91 - - - -	1-2	Does not discriminate active from past infection
Reverse PCR hybrid capture	Viral RNA Viral DNA	Blood Potentially any	17 -	97 -	1-2 < 1	Active - potential to discriminate active from past infections
bDNA antigenaemia assay	Viral DNA Viral pp65 antigen	Blood Blood	- 50-83	- 71-80	1-2 1	Active and past infection
Histopathology/ immunostaining	Early CMV antigen	Tissue Liver	- 84	- 97	-	Active

Table has been compiled from reviews by Sia and Pater 2000, Razonable et al 2002.

*PBC = peripheral blood collection; †BAL = broncho-alveolar lavage; ‡CSF = cerebrospinal fluid.