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AusDiagnostics releases IVD kit for detection of dermatophytes

AusDiagnostics has CE marked a new kit for detection of dermatophytes. These fungal pathogens cause athlete's foot, and a number of itchy skin, hair and nail infections. Currently the diagnosis requires culture of the fungi which can take up to 4 weeks. The new kit released by AusDiagnostics will give a result in 4 hours making the selection of treatment much more timely for the patient.

For infections of fingernails, diagnosis is important to complete before treatment because of the cost and potential side effects of treatment. The molecular detection of dermatophytes based on characteristic sequences in their DNA is therefore of utmost importance. Identification by sequence is also more reliable than identification by microscopy after culture.

The kit detects *Microsporum*, *Trichophyton*, and *Epidermophyton* species as well as typing six common dermatophytes and six *Candida* species.

AusDiagnostics Managing Director Professor Keith Stanley said that the new kit had received a lot of support from pathology laboratories in Australia as it makes such a big difference to laboratory work flow.

"We see this as a major addition to our product catalogue as there is very little competition in this field at present"

The kit is also included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

About AusDiagnostics:

AusDiagnostics registered as an Australian company in 2006 and now employs over 50 staff across four countries. Its proprietary technology, "Multiplexed Tandem PCR", was patented in 2005 following a START grant from the Australian Government to Corbett Research PTY Ltd. MT-PCR allows multiplexing any number of gene targets and can detect minor pathogens even in the presence of a large abundance of other pathogens. This makes it very useful for dual or multiple infections.

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