
CONSULTATION – OUTCOME

9 September 2019

Diagnostic testing for fungal infections of skin, hair, and nails at Labtests and Northland Pathology Laboratory

Labtests and Northland Pathology Laboratory recently consulted on proposed changes to limit fungal culture.

To view the consultation document go to the Labtests website:

https://www.labtests.co.nz/images/News/190815_Consultation- fungi.pdf

We would like to thank practitioners for their feedback. The feedback was generally favourable, particularly from general practitioners who reflected that the proposed changes would likely streamline management and improve clarity of reporting for their patients.

Several dermatologists responded, and one commented on the imperfect yield of microscopy. We do recognise that no method is perfect for the detection or isolation of fungi, but our proposal utilises the higher sensitivity of microscopy compared with culture, and allow focused application of culture where it is likely to provide the most benefit. Overall we believe that the changes will be well received and improve the quality of our reports.

Decision outcome

With this feedback in mind the decision has been taken that Labtests and Northland Pathology Laboratory will limit fungal culture from 30th September 2019.

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