UK NEQAS

Leucocyte Immunophenotyping

Title:	Performance Monitoring System for Paediatric Acute Leukaemia Translocations (PALT) Programme
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Performance Monitoring System for Paediatric Acute Leukaemia Translocations (PALT) Programme

Aim

The scoring system is a rolling scheme that will identify unsatisfactory performance or persistent unsatisfactory performance of any participant. This is in order that UK NEQAS LI can provide support and guidance where needed and ensure that the Genetics NQAAP are informed as appropriate. Please note that each programme will be scored independently.

Outline

Two samples are issued for each trial, both to be tested for the t(1;19) (*TCF3-PBX1*), t(12;21) (*ETV6-RUNX1*) and t(4;11) (*KMT2A-AFF1*) translocations by molecular methods. The samples may or may not feature an applicable rearrangement; three trials are issued per annum. The Paediatric Acute Leukaemia Translocations (PALT) programme requires a qualitative response from participants; therefore, participants are asked if, using their normal laboratory molecular technique, they have detected the presence/absence of the t(1;19) (*TCF3-PBX1*), t(12;21) (*ETV6-RUNX1*) and t(4;11) (*KMT2A-AFF1*) rearrangements in the respective sample. The presence/absence of a given translocation is determined from the consensus of all participants' results (modal result).

Each participant response is then compared against the consensus results. If the participant's results are in line with the consensus result for both samples the participant is awarded a 'Satisfactory' status for the trial. If the participant is out of consensus for either/both sample(s) an overall 'Critical' (unsatisfactory) status is awarded for that trial. Non returns will result in an immediate 'Critical' status for that trial.

If a participant is awarded two 'Critical' trial statuses out of three consecutive trials (for which they have been a member of the programme) then their overall status will escalate to persistent unsatisfactory performance.

Unsatisfactory performance will be initially communicated to participants on their trial report. This will be followed by a letter, highlighting that their performance was unsatisfactory on the last trial, and offering support and guidance. The support and guidance offered will be tailored to the particular needs of the participant but may include the provision of repeat/additional samples plus telephone, email or face-to-face communications. If a participant's status is

elevated to persistent unsatisfactory performance then a further letter will be issued highlighting this and, for UK based laboratories, the Genetics NQAAP panel informed.

Participant's results will be reviewed by the lead scientist and any UK participant may, at the discretion of the Director and Specialist Advisory Group chair person, be referred Genetics NQAAP even if they have not met the criteria for persistent unsatisfactory performance in any individual EQA.

As with all scoring systems it is important to note that these will be constantly reviewed to determine if they are providing the information required. The Director of the scheme retains the discretion to determine if any individual trial should not be scored.