Antibiotic sensitivity testing. Report of an international collaborative study.

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Journal issue : Acta Pathologica et Microbiologica Scandinavica 1971 No.Suppl. 2

Abstract : A working party of people well known internationally in the field o was set up under World Health Organization sponsorship in 1961 to study t reproducibility of antibiotic sensitivity testing. Their aim was to investigate th introducing standard techniques which might become universal reference m The work involved 16 laboratories. Each was provided with the same 16 org supplies of standard media and antibiotics and precise instructions for their

laboratories determined the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of each broth and agar dilution methods and the size of inhibition zones produced b diffusion.
The results were examined statistically. Of the two dilution techniques, the tended to give higher MICs with all antibiotics except tetra-cycline, the differ exceeding 1 doubling dilution step in 9 of 45 sets of results. The agar meth produced scattered results, 75 of 675 observations differing by more than median. A mathematical treatment allowed a direct comparison between the dilution and diffusion tests to be made. This showed the diffusion techniqu somewhat more reproducible than either of the dilution tests.
The Report sets out the methods recommended by the working party for t performance of the three types of test and proposes that these be adopte techniques. Much of the detail of these recommendations depends on the investigations done for the purpose by members of the working party and investigations are reported in extended summary form giving much valuabl on topics including media, inoculum size and antibiotic stability.
Although primarily concerned with reference methods, the working party al recommendations relating to routine sensitivity testing in clinical bacteriolog a system of reporting bacterial sensitivity in 4 grades, related to the MICs o concerned and the antibiotic levels probably attainable at their point of actio grades are described in some detail together with proposals for practical m
This is a very important report. All microbiologists having to do with antibiot it.
P. D. Meers.

Record Number : 19712702524
Language of text : not specified
Language of summary : not specified

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Descriptor(s) : antibiotics, guidelines, techniques, WHO
Identifier(s) : in vivo, inoculum size, recommendations, sensitivity, World Health O

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