



Diagnostic Virology Laboratory Newsletter



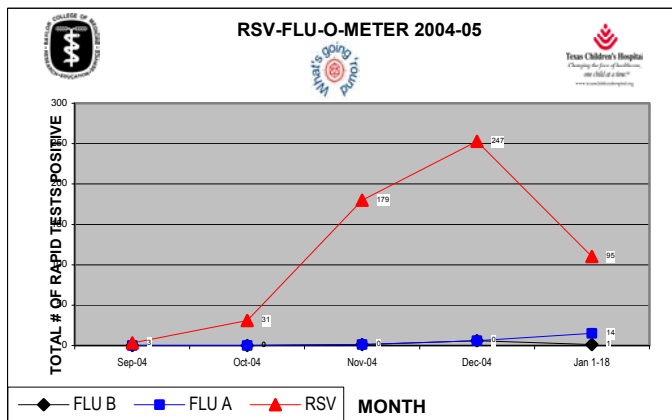
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RSV continues to be the most common virus isolated; small numbers of both influenza A and B have been detected so far this season. Stay tuned to the RSV-FLU-O-METER for the latest updates!

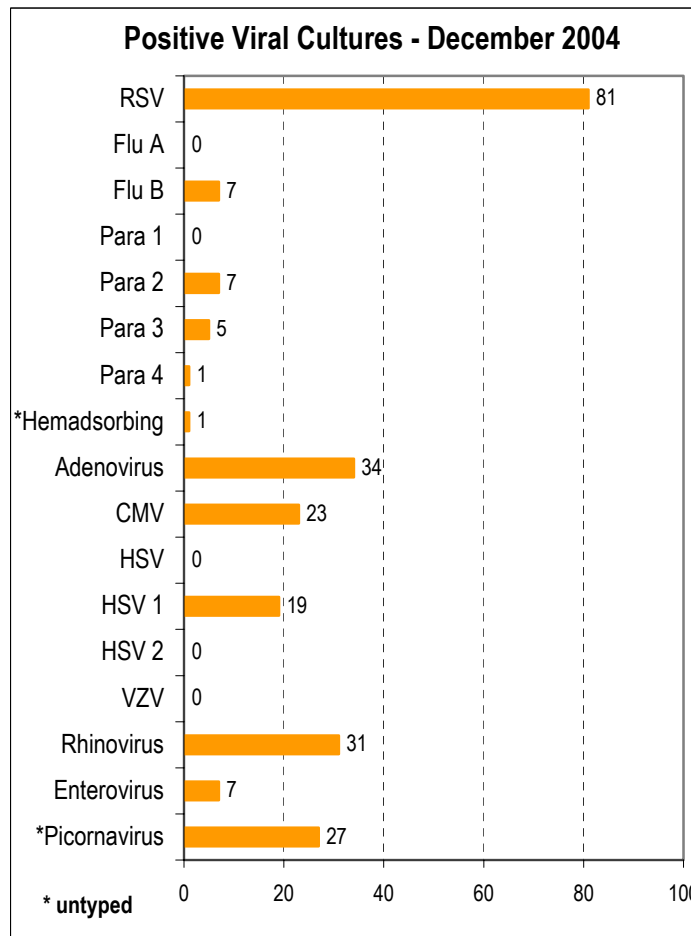
[http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER\(combined\).pdf](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER(combined).pdf)



NOTE: We have received several reports so far this season regarding our RSV rapid assay. Specific concerns included test reproducibility, and possible false positive results. We currently use the Binax NOW RSV TEST KIT, a commercial strip immunoassay that had good performance statistics last season in our lab. However, rapid assays for RSV (and FLU) may vary in test performance and we have reported these concerns to the manufacturer. In addition, we currently are performing our own in-house, mid-season analysis, in addition to our usual annual, post-season review, as well as investigating alternative strategies, including another rapid assay vendor and an alternative platform, such as DFA. All rapid assays will continue to be backed up by viral culture. Updates will be posted on our website and in our monthly newsletter. We welcome your feedback and hope you continue to contact us when concerns arise.

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Viral Cultures – December 2004

Total all	1280	Total Resp.	1114
Positive	243	Positive	219
% Positive	19	% Positive	20

EIA Rapid Test Results – December 2004

	RSV	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	1000	982	982
Positive	247	0	0
% Positive	24	0	0

EIA Rapid Test Results – January 1-18, 2005

	RSV	FLU A	FLU B
Tested	460	451	451
Positive	95	14	1
% Positive	21	3	0

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