SESSIONE 1 USO RAZIONALE ED APPROPRIATO DEI SISTEMI DIAGNOSTICI RAPIDI E DEI SAGGI SINDROMICI IN MICROBIOLOGIA CLINICA

DIAGNOSI DELLE INFEZIONI RESPIRATORIE: TECNOLOGIE, TAT E STEP APPROPRIATI

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Acute respiratory infections (ARIs) include both upper tract infections, such as the common cold, and lower tract infections, such as pneumonia, bronchitis, bronchiolitis, and exacerbation of asthma. Lower respiratory tract infections cause substantial morbidity and mortality and are a leading cause of hospitalization, especially for infants, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals. ARIs are caused by a wide variety of pathogens, which include several viral and bacterial agents. Most infections appear with overlapping clinical presentations, and therefore, physicians usually cannot differentiate the causative pathogen without laboratory testing. Accurate and timely identification of respiratory pathogens is thus critical for administering appropriate antimicrobial therapy, for adopting public health measures, and for controlling possible outbreaks. Until recently, clinical microbiology diagnostic techniques have relied almost exclusively on culture and isolation of microbes from patient specimens, with biochemical and phenotypic analysis to identify pathogen(s) causing infections . Advanced microbiology technologies are rapidly changing our ability to diagnose infections, improve patient care, and enhance clinical workflow. This presentation will review the diagnostic modalities available for identifying viruses and bacteria in the respiratory tract specimens, with a discussion of their clinical utility and limitations in diagnosing ARIs.