

TECHNICAL BULLETIN: TESTING SPERM SAMPLES at ROOM TEMPERATURE

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

BACKGROUND:

Room temperature is a general term describing common indoor temperatures. It is usually in the range of 20°C (68°F or 293K) to 25°C (77°F or 298K)*

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Room_temperature

OVERVIEW:

The WHO 5th edition manual recommends assessing sperm motility at **either** room temperature or at 37 °C (with a heated microscope stage). "These conditions should be standardized for each laboratory" (WHO 5th edition manual, p. 22).

CLINICAL FINDINGS:

Sperm Concentration, Motility and Motile Sperm Concentration were assessed at 20°C and 25°C using the SQA-V GOLD system. No significant differences were found when running the same semen samples at these temperatures. The conclusion can be drawn that room temperature range does not impact the assessed semen variables.

INSTRUCTIONS:

The SQA-V GOLD is calibrated and room temperature and has been developed to operate at room temperature conditions, so there is no heating stage on the device. When performing a validation of the SQA-V based on comparing the test results to manual results, the manual results should be performed at room temperature as well.

MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Clinical laboratories are air conditioned facilities. It is therefore recommended to maintain the room temperature of the lab in the range of 20°C (68°F or 293K) to 25°C (77°F or 298K).

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