

Use of Alternative Specimens in TDM

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SUMMARY

Chemical testing of biological specimens is the most objective way to obtain information about drug use. The choice of the type of biological specimen is critical because each one gives different chemical and pharmacodynamic knowledge. In recent years, remarkable advances in sensitive analytical techniques have enabled the analysis of drugs in unconventional biological specimens such as saliva, hair, sweat, etc.

Factors effecting drug disposition, mechanisms of drug incorporation, specimen collection, correlation between alternative specimens and blood, advantages and disadvantages as a test media for analysis, etc. are thoroughly interpreted. The standard for drug testing requires an immunoassay screening followed by confirmation with chromatography (gas or liquid) coupled with mass spectrometry.