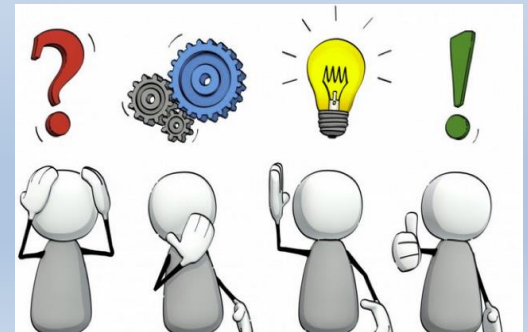


23rd Annual Meeting of the TSE EURL
Rome 7th – 8th May 2026

RAPID AND CONFIRMATORY TESTS PTs:
issues and news

Maria Mazza
IZSPLV-Turin



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SOME ISSUES ON PTs

Use of expired reagents



Data reported are often incomplete



Rapid test results can be reported as “routine test,”
1st or 2nd “alternative test”



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Process for PTs

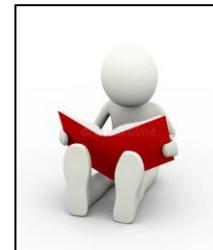
Test execution



PTs must only be performed by trained staff using calibrated instruments and **appropriate (non-expired) reagents.**



Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)



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Process for PTs

Test execution

- ✓ All samples of the screening rounds with the rapid test (RB, RS), confirmatory western blot (WB, WS) **must be stored between -70 °C or -80 °C until analysis.**
- ✓ If samples are received thawed, please contact EURL TSE immediately.
- ✓ **Homogenate samples have to be treated as fresh tissue!!!**
- ✓ Shake vigorously or vortex each sample after complete thawing and before the analysis.



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Process for PTs

Submission of results



☐ SUBMIT YOUR PT RESULTS WITH ALL THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION BY THE DEADLINE!!!



☐ RESULTS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE OR INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

☐ IF SUBMISSION IS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO MAJOR ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT THE EURL BEFORE THE DEADLINE.



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Process for PTs



Submission of results

The presentation of results must be performed exclusively on the EURL TSE website at the address: <https://www.eurl-tse.eu> – in the section “*Personal Area*”.

Steps for the submission:

Follow the instructions in the “*How to proceed*” section of each PT round.

Fill in all fields on the template for each PT round on the EURL TSE website.

Enter using the **personal identification code (ID code) notified by e-mail and associated with the reference person** for the PT.

- ✓ Important: before entering the results of a round, ensure you have the ID code.
- ✓ For assistance, contact Francesco Ingravalle at the following e-mail addresses:

francesco.ingravalle@izsplv.it; eurl.tse@izsplv.it



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Process for PTs



- ❖ Upload the raw data (rapid test O.D.; picture of western blot analysis for each antibody used, indicating the exposure time). Please note a single pdf file with the raw data (blot images) must also be uploaded for any repeated test of the same method.
- ❖ Report information concerning the batch number and expiry of kits or other reagents used in the tests.
- ❖ Report any additional information associated with the tests in the “Note” field.

Please note that the instructions for each PT, available on the EURL TSE website, specifically state the procedures to be followed in carrying out the analyses.



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Process for PTs

Actions foreseen for non-compliant PTs results

- In the case of non-compliant PT results from an NRL, **a detailed analysis of the causes should be sent** promptly (no later than 5 days) to the EURL TSE who, in collaboration with the laboratory staff, will attempt to resolve the issue.
- Subsequently, **EURL TSE will send a second set of samples** to be analyzed by the laboratory in a timely manner and the results submitted on time.



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Process for PTs

Actions foreseen for non-compliant PTs results

- A failure also of the second round will result in an action by EURL TSE staff to assess the state of the laboratory, also by means of **audits and possible new training of technical staff** on the method applied.
- **The persistence of the problems and the lack of cooperation from the NRL following the actions taken by EURL TSE will result in the involvement of the European Commission,** which in agreement with the staff of EURL TSE will assess the appropriate measures to be applied to the laboratory.

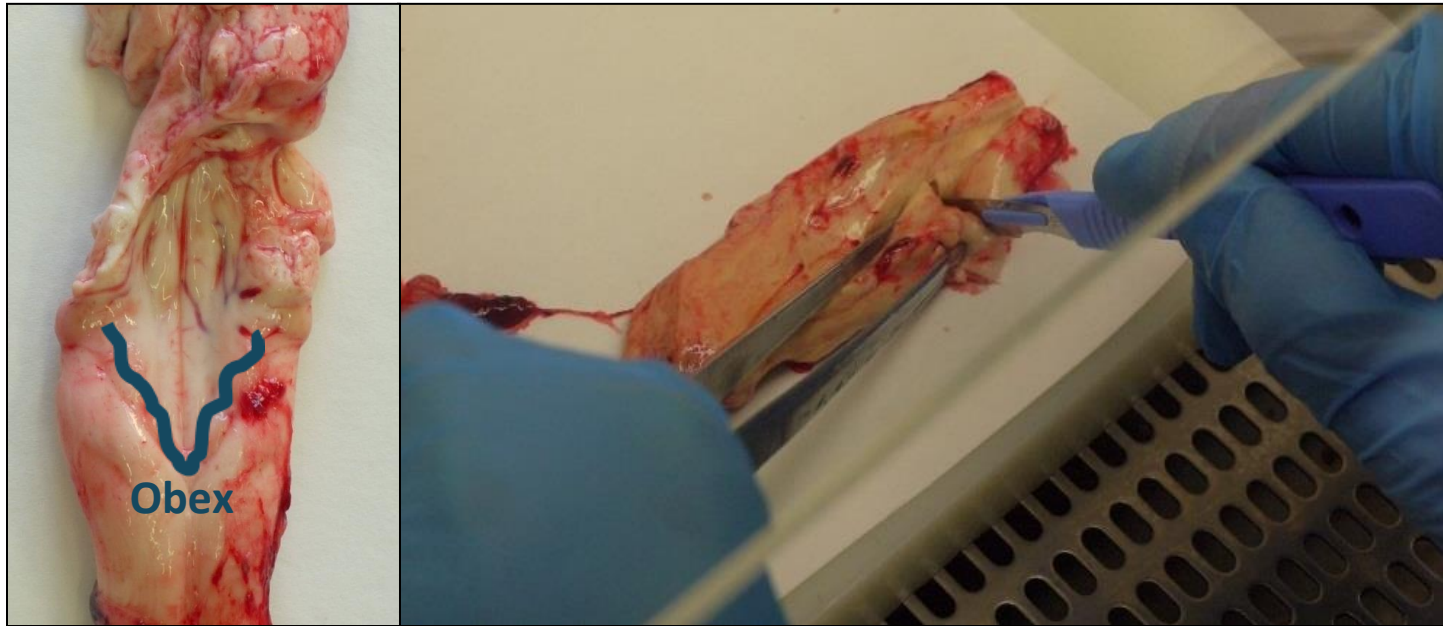


Please note that following the failure of a PT circuit the NRL will have to stop its activity and transfer it to another NRL or to the EURL TSE laboratories until the issue is addressed



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Sampling from the brainstem



Diagnostic screening

Confirmatory tests

Key to getting a sampling correct:

- ☐ ongoing training for the vets in charge of sampling for TSEs
- ☐ recommending vets to use the appropriate equipment for collecting the brainstem (spoon, forceps, solid containers)
- ☐ monitoring the sampling of the obex region in the laboratory by new staff



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European Commission



Personal Area



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HERDCHEK BSE-SCRAPIE Ag Test

Detection PrP^{Sc} in small ruminants

BSE – Classical Scrapie

High sensitivity and specificity



Atypical Scrapie/Nor98



Cut-off value (O.D.)

Within - 20% range (O.D.)

Repeat the analysis in duplicate

O.D. < cut-off (- 20%):
negative

O.D. > cut-off:
positive

NRL



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Thanks to everybody for the attention!!!

