

Advice 38-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the detection of prednisolone in faeces.

Prednisolone belongs to the group of corticosteroids and can be used illegally as a growth promoter in livestock.

Cortisol (natural hormone) may be transformed into prednisolone by microbiological dehydrogenation.

Three questions were addressed to the Scientific Committee, namely:

- Are faeces an appropriate matrix for the detection of prednisolone? Are they appropriate for other steroids?
- If confirmed, what are the recommended storage temperatures for transport to the laboratory?
- If not confirmed, what other matrices are proposed?

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that faeces could be a suitable matrix for detection of prednisolone provided that this is experimentally tested and that some basic precautions for the conservation of the samples are taken. Three sample conservation measures are proposed namely: freezing (-20°C), storage under anaerobic circumstances and sterilization. The Scientific Committee recommends that these conservation measures are tested and validated before any official use.

The analysis of prednisolone may also be performed on urine or plasma, as is practiced in many European countries.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".