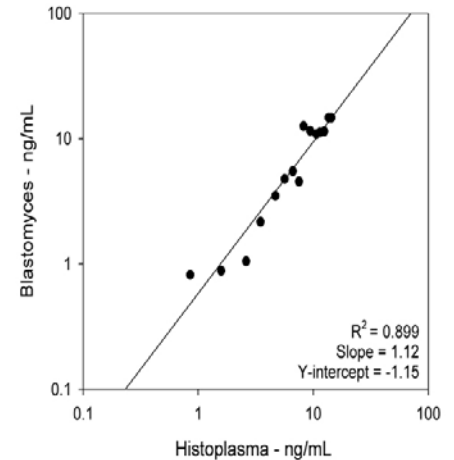


## Antigen Testing for Blastomycosis and Histoplasmosis

The sensitivity in dogs with biopsy proven blastomycosis was 93% in urine and 87% in serum [1]. Recent unpublished studies confirm excellent sensitivity but show that concentrations may be low in proven cases: < 2 ng/mL in serum in 26% and urine in 8%. Histoplasma antigen was detected in the urine of 94% of cats with proven histoplasmosis [2]. A negative result does not exclude blastomycosis or histoplasmosis. Antigen concentration declines with treatment [1].

Specificity is about 98% except for nearly complete cross reactivity between blastomycosis and histoplasmosis. Of specimens that are positive in one assay, 95% are positive in the other assay, and concentration correlates closely (Figure-Blasto cases tested in the Blasto and Histo antigen assays) [3]: **ordering both tests is unnecessary**. Less cross-reactivity is seen with coccidioidomycosis [4]. However, if the clinical and radiographic findings are not typical, repeat testing is advised, especially if the antigen level is low (less than 2 ng/mL).

*Coccidioides* [5,6] and *Aspergillus* [7] antigen testing and itraconazole, voriconazole and posaconazole blood level testing also are available at MiraVista. Find information and educational materials on the MiraVista website.



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