

# A Decade Revisited— The Forensic and Clinical Applications of Hair Testing

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**REFERENCE:** Ropero-Miller JD: A decade revisited — The forensic and clinical applications of hair testing; *Forensic Sci Rev* 19:49–67; 2007.

**ABSTRACT:** Hair testing for metals in clinical and forensic applications began in the 1950s whereas drugs of abuse testing in hair did not begin until the early 1980s. Hair testing has continued to develop as indicated by the publication of more than 300 scientific manuscripts focusing on applications of hair analysis in the past 10 years alone. This review describes many disciplines of hair testing cited in journals and books over the past decade including forensic drug screening, clinical testing, death investigations, and the potential use of newer applications such as reinstatement of driving privileges, detection of doping agents, and testing for drugs used in a criminal act. Each discipline is explained and further details are then illustrated through actual case studies and investigational results.

**KEY WORDS:** Clinical, drug testing, forensic, hair testing.

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