



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rapid antigen tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2: A comment



Pruebas rápidas de antígenos para la detección de SARS-CoV-2: un comentario

Dear Editor,

We would like to share ideas on the publication "Rapid antigen tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2: A narrative review".¹ Aguilar-Shea et al. concluded that "Antigen tests have become a very useful and validated tool for controlling the spread of COVID-19 ...".¹ We agree that rapid antigen test is useful for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19. Since it can be used as point of care test, the rapid test is proved usefulness for mass screening during outbreak.² However, the predictive value of the diagnostic test for COVID-19 depends on the prevalence of disease.³ Hence, a re-evaluation of diagnostic property of the test at different situations of outbreak is necessary. For rapid antigen test, the effect of new emerging SARS CoV2 variant on diagnostic property is another interesting issue. In a recent report, Bourassa et al. found that some mutants could escape some antigen test and this is an important issue for evaluation of any available rapid antigen test.⁴

Conflict of interest

None declared.

References

1. Aguilar-Shea AL, García MV, Fernández RG. Rapid antigen tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2: a narrative review. *Aten Primaria*. 2021;53:102127, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aprim.2021.104900> [published online 28.05.21].
2. Colavita F, Vairo F, Meschi S, Valli M. B, Lelle E, Castilletti C, et al. COVID-19 rapid antigen test as screening strategy at points of entry: experience in Lazio Region, Central Italy, August–October 2020. *Biomolecules*. 2021;11:425.
3. Mendicino DA, Moretti ER. Tests for the detection of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2: importance of the critical professional interpretation. *Int J Prev Med*. 2021;12:61.
4. Bourassa L, Perchetti GA, Phung Q, Lin MJ, Mills MG, Roychoudhury P, et al. SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid variant that affects antigen test performance. *J Clin Virol*. 2021;141:104900, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcv.2021.104900> [online ahead of print].

Pathum Sookaromdee^{a,*}, Viroj Wiwanitkit^b

^a Private Academic Consultant, Bangkok, Thailand

^b Honorary Professor, Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: pathumsook@gmail.com (P. Sookaromdee).