

Resource Summary Report

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A lateral flow-based at-home test for detection of SARS-CoV-2

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Protocol Information

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Group: Coronavirus Method Development Community, UCSF

Summary: We have developed a highly sensitive and specific LAMP(loop-mediated amplification)-based assay for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 that can potentially be used for at-home and point-of-care (POC) testing. The assay includes only three simple steps: (1) heat inactivate the sample mixed with lysis buffer and add LAMP reagent mix, (2) incubate the reaction on a heating device, and (3) read the result by inserting a lateral flow strip into the tube. Performance is comparable to gold-standard RT-PCR testing, as the assay is based on nucleic acid detection rather than antigen detection which is used by the majority of lateral flow strip-based assays. There is minimal pre-processing involved and no bulky instrumentation needed, and non-lab professionals can follow the instructions and understand the results easily. The assay targets the SARS-CoV-2 nucleoprotein (N) gene and is capable of detecting as low as 4.0 copies per reaction (0.5 copies/??L) of SARS-CoV-2 RNA, demonstrating no cross-reactivity with a panel of 20 other respiratory pathogens. Furthermore, the test can be run on multiple sample types, including nasopharyngeal and/or oropharyngeal swab and saliva samples. Overall, this assay provides a rapid (sample-to-answer turnaround time of ~40 min), accurate, and affordable solution to the challenge of at-home diagnostics for SARS-CoV-2.

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