BioMed Research International

Special Issue on
Point-of-Care Testing for HIV

CALL FOR PAPERS

The development of rapid point-of-care test (POCT) technology for use in clinical practice for the diagnosis and management of HIV and related coinfections has provided novel and enhanced opportunities for timely diagnosis and reducing the often long lag to eligibility assessment for antiretroviral therapy (ART), particularly in high-prevalence, resource-limited settings. Expanding access to reliable and accurate rapid POCTs for both initial diagnosis and subsequent immune status monitoring is critical for engaging patients in care, long-term retention and minimising the prevalence of undiagnosed or under-treated HIV where virus transmission risk is the greatest. Recent innovations in rapid multiplexed POCTs for the simultaneous detection of HIV and concurrent infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, and syphilis may further streamline linkage to appropriate treatment and care pathways which in turn may reduce subsequent virus transmission risk. Accurate, replicable POCTs for CD4 and viral load monitoring may further permit real-time management of often complex ART regimens which traditionally have been limited by access to appropriate laboratory infrastructure and flow cytometry technical expertise. Challenges remain in delivering an acceptable suite of affordable POCT technology of acceptable sensitivity and specificity which remain simple to use, particularly in high-burden lower and middle income settings where ART delivery is increasingly managed by lower-level, nonphysician health care workers.

We invite authors to submit original research and review articles that explore novel POCT technology for HIV and related coinfections and their application and impact in clinical practice.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Rapid POCT technology and innovation
- Sensitivity, specificity, and diagnostic accuracy
- Multiplexed POCT
- Coinfection with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, TB, and syphilis
- Patient-implemented testing
- Quality assurance and diagnostic accuracy
- Role for POCT in early infant HIV diagnosis
- Cost-effectiveness
- Incorporating POCT into local clinical care pathways

Authors can submit their manuscripts via the Manuscript Tracking System at http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/bmri/virology/pcth/.

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