Learn more about COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test

There are many brands of rapid antigen test in the market. How should we make a smart choice? Let’s brush up our knowledge of them.

Due to relatively high infection risk in the community, generally speaking, positive result from a good quality RAT is relatively certain. Members of the public tested positive by RAT, should be considered positive cases and should take all necessary steps to avoid further spreading of the virus.

RAT has its limitations in terms of sensitivity. A negative RAT result cannot preclude the possibility that the testee has been infected. The testee should remain vigilant, take all anti-epidemic measures closely monitor their health conditions.

1. How should we make a smart choice?

Smart choice and proper use

- Familiarise yourself with the limitations
- Pay attention to the performance of RAT
- Purchase from reputable suppliers
- Do not purchase / use expired products
- Follow the instructions for use
- Despite a negative RAT result, members of the public should remain vigilant and take all anti-epidemic measure
- Consult healthcare professionals if in doubt
2. What's the performance and limitation of RAT for COVID-19?

**Sensitivity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True Positive</th>
<th>False Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAT for COVID-19</strong></td>
<td>8 infected persons correctly identified as positive</td>
<td>2 infected persons incorrectly identified as negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>80% Sensitivity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specificity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True Negative</th>
<th>False Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAT for COVID-19</strong></td>
<td>9 non-infected persons correctly identified as negative</td>
<td>1 non-infected person incorrectly identified as positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>90% Specificity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**False Negative**

As the test result indicates the user is not infected, it may lead to the following:

- Increase in spread of the virus
- Delay in seeking medical advice

**False Positive**

As the test result indicates the user is infected, it may lead to the following:

- Unnecessary quarantine
- Unnecessary anxiety and panic
- Consuming time and resources for further testing

3. Is there any reference for purchasing RAT for COVID-19?

**How to choose Rapid Antigen Test kits?**

In the webpage of RAT under the COVID-19 Thematic Website, the Government also provides listed rapid antigen tests under Medical Device Administrative Control System, the list of RAT kits being freely distributed by the Government and lists of rapid antigen tests of regulatory authorities such as National Medical Products Administration, European Union and U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the public for reference during purchase.

For details, please refer to https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/rat/eng/rat.html