

Testing For COVID 19

COVID tests available.

- PCR or Molecular testing
- Serological testing (Antibody = IGG,IGM)



What is PCR or Molecular Testing?



Presence of Viral DNA



Swab test and takes minimum 6
hours

Advantage of PCR testing

- Detect Virus from the very beginning the disease.
- “ Gold standard for early diagnosis and treatment”

Disadvantage of the PCR testing.

Accuracy (sensitivity) depends –
pre-analytic and analytic phase of
testing.

63 to 71 %

Accuracy decrease with phase of
illness.

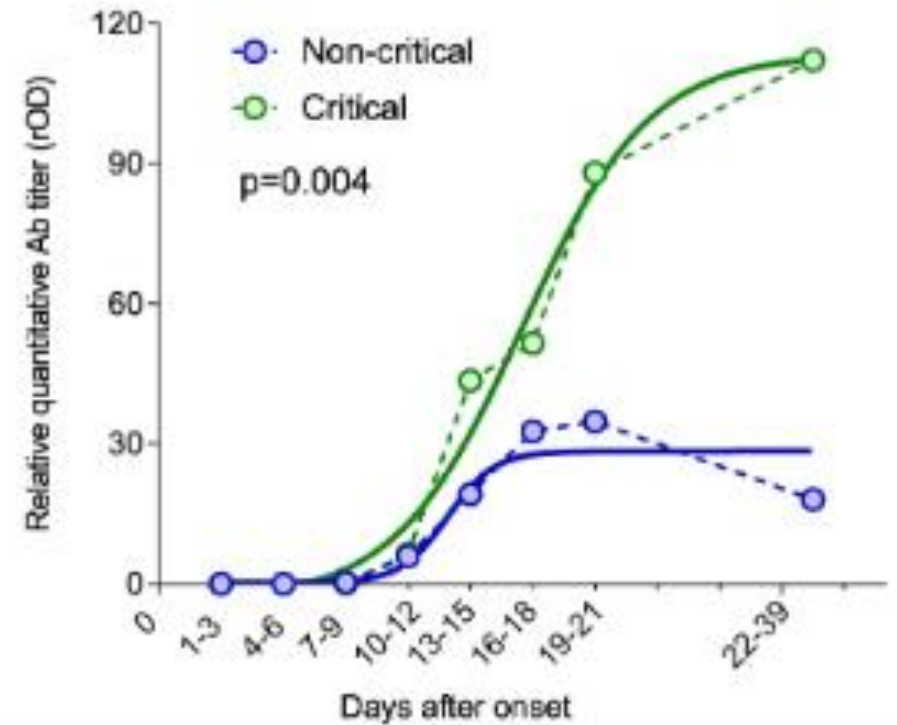
Disadvantage of PCR testing

Expensive and timely , most countries the test is limited for Symptomatic patients.

> 40 % are mild symptoms
,17.9 to 50 % are asymptomatic .

What is Serology Testing?

- Identifies the presence of antibodies in persons blood.
- Immune response (IGG/IGM)



Types of Serological Testing

- Rapid test Kits (combo or individual IGG/IGM)
- Finger Prick .
- 10 minutes.
- Caveat – variable accuracy (new companies and one test at a time)

Types of Serological Testing

- Laboratory Machine Base .
- Fully Automated with Special Internal Controls for maximum Accuracy.
- Run large no. of samples at a time
- Need blood in a tube and takes 30 minutes



Disadvantage of Serological testing



TAKES 5 TO 14 DAYS
FOR ANTIBODIES TO
BE DETECTED.



CANNOT BE USED AS A
DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR
EARLY DIAGNOSIS .

Advantage of Serological Testing

- Able to detect COVID 19 infection with Patients.
- Present late in the course of their illness when PCR may be negative.
- Not knowing they have the infection or because the symptoms were mild.
- Important when surveillance and Epidemiological studies and a need for contact tracing.

Impact of COVID 19?

- Higher Exposure.
- Not all crew are tested while in Quarantine.
- Huge cost involved keeping Crew in Quarantine.

Benefits

- > IGG positive means you have acquired immunity.
- > This may allow in the future reduce the time of quarantine.
- You may be able to be involved in the plasma treatment for serious cases.
- > Community Responsibility , allowing crew to know if they have been infected or not.
- Identifying you that you have an exposure and give us the true picture of how many people are infected in Fiji so that government can plan out their strategic plan and epidemiological studies.

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