



## QuikRead go Strep A, good performance compared to culture

A study comparing two different rapid Strep A antigen tests (RADTs) with throat culture has been published. The study material comprised of throat swabs collected as triplicates from patients with suspected Strep A pharyngitis, 100 swabs per test. The RADTs in use were BD Veritor™ and QuikRead go® Strep A.

Results were evaluated from several perspectives, including disease duration, association between clinical symptoms and a positive result, and division into patients on antibiotics or no antibiotics.

A difference in the tests' performance in correlation to clinical symptoms was noticed and the duration of disease symptoms affected the performance of the RADTs compared to culture. The authors do not disclose how the patients on antibiotics were distributed between the groups, but that might explain some of the noticed differences.

RADTs are used as help to distinguish patients who need antibiotics from those who have viral infection, and the testing is often performed before start of antibiotic treatment. In this study, the effect of including patients already on antibiotics can be seen on the overall performance (QuikRead Strep A 75%, BD Veritor 79%). The results in the no antibiotic users are very good.

Not on antibiotics (39)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	PPV (95% CI)	NPV (95% CI)
QuikRead go Strep A	94,1 (73,0-98,9)	95,5 (78,2-99,2)	94,1 (71,1-99,9)	95,5 (76,5-99,9)
BD Veritor	94,1 (73,0-98,9)	86,4 (66,7-95,2)	84,2 (61,6-95,3)	95,0 (74,6-99,9)
Patients on antibiotics (61)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	PPV (95% CI)	NPV (95% CI)
QuikRead go Strep A	50 (21,5-78,5)	64,1 (50,7-75,7)	17,5 (6,4-37,7)	89,5 (75,3-96,4)
BD Veritor	50 (21,5-78,5)	75,5 (62,4-85,1)	23,5 (9,5-47,8)	90,9 (78,7-97,0)

Due to RADTs' different performance in subgroups, the authors do not conclude which of the tests is preferable.

This comparison study between throat culture and two rapid Strep A antigen detection tests (RADTs) was published online on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the European Journal of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

*Detection of group A Streptococcus in pharyngitis by two rapid tests: Comparison of the BD Veritor and the QuikRead go Strep A*

Azrad M, Danilov E, Goshen S, Nitzan O, Peretz A

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