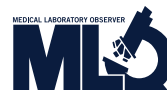


As the pandemic meets flu season, labs turn to rapid molecular testing

SEPTEMBER 2020 (This form may be photocopied. It is no longer valid for CEUs after March 31, 2022.) Passing scores of 70 percent or higher are eligible for 1 contact hour of P.A.C.E. credit.



TEST QUESTIONS

Circles must be filled in, or test will not be graded. Shade circles like this: ● Not like this: ○

- Rapid tests, such as immunoassays for viral antigens, were _____ conventional laboratory tests.
 - ☐ A. far less accurate than
 - ☐ B. far more accurate than
 - ☐ C. as accurate as
 - ☐ D. slightly less accurate than
- A broad range of molecular test options, from flu-only tests to broad panels of respiratory pathogens, has been helpful for the laboratory but can be _____ for physicians to navigate.
 - ☐ A. simple
 - ☐ B. confusing
 - ☐ C. intuitive
 - ☐ D. challenging
- As of July, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had already granted emergency use authorization for _____ combination tests for flu and SARS-CoV-2.
 - ☐ A. one
 - ☐ B. two
 - ☐ C. three
 - ☐ D. five
- With the major push to slow the spread of antimicrobial resistance by reducing the unnecessary use of antibiotics, physicians can no longer wait a few days to get test results for possible flu cases.
 - ☐ A. true
 - ☐ B. false
- But numerous studies have shown that rapid antigen tests tend to have _____, leading to a high number of _____ results.
 - ☐ A. high sensitivity; false positive
 - ☐ B. low sensitivity; false negative
 - ☐ C. low sensitivity; false positive
 - ☐ D. high sensitivity; false negative
- New guidelines for influenza testing issued by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) last year recommend against the use of _____ tests.
 - ☐ A. rapid antigen
 - ☐ B. serology
 - ☐ C. RT-PCR
 - ☐ D. viral culture
- The IDSA now recommends the use of _____.
 - ☐ A. rapid molecular tests
 - ☐ B. direct and indirect immunofluorescence assays
 - ☐ C. rapid cell culture
 - ☐ D. molecular assays
- _____ and _____ were the most common viruses seen in COVID-19 patients with co-infections.
 - ☐ A. influenza A; Influenza B
 - ☐ B. influenza B; RSV
 - ☐ C. parainfluenzae; influenza B
 - ☐ D. influenza A; RSV
- Currently there is insufficient data to determine the effect of such co-infections on clinical outcomes, but it is possible that the severity of a SARS-CoV-2 infection is altered by the presence of _____.
 - ☐ A. other pathogens
 - ☐ B. co-morbidities
 - ☐ C. environmental allergies
 - ☐ D. the common cold
- Molecular tests have higher sensitivity than rapid antigen tests or even the previous gold standard, _____.
 - ☐ A. conventional direct or indirect fluorescent antibody (DFA or IFA) assays
 - ☐ B. serology tests
 - ☐ C. viral cultures
 - ☐ D. rapid influenza diagnostic tests
- An immunocompromised patient admitted to the hospital could be tested with a broad panel of respiratory pathogens, as the IDSA flu guidelines recommend.
 - ☐ A. true
 - ☐ B. false
- A mini panel test including flu A/B, _____ and SARS-CoV-2 will be an important tool to help lab staff quickly test for the most common respiratory pathogens without over-testing.
 - ☐ A. Epstein-Barr virus
 - ☐ B. RSV
 - ☐ C. Parainfluenzae
 - ☐ D. Adenovirus
- Today, there are a number of sample-to-answer platforms that rely on _____ to limit the hands-on time needed from lab technicians.
 - ☐ A. integration with a laboratory information system
 - ☐ B. test kits
 - ☐ C. automation
 - ☐ D. reagents
- In addition to easing the burden on medical technologists, these kinds of platforms also make it easier for labs to _____ to meet surges in demand, without requiring extra _____.
 - ☐ A. scale capacity; test kits
 - ☐ B. add staffing resources; test kits
 - ☐ C. add staffing resources; reagents
 - ☐ D. scale capacity; staffing resources
- Some automated testing instruments require as little as _____ minutes to report results, and many others take just a few hours.
 - ☐ A. 10
 - ☐ B. 20
 - ☐ C. 30
 - ☐ D. 40
- _____ is always a testing concern, and the addition of COVID-19 in flu season could increase the complexity of managing costs for labs and patients.
 - ☐ A. sourcing supplies
 - ☐ B. reimbursement
 - ☐ C. staffing
 - ☐ D. reducing complexity
- With the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is reasonable to hope that insurers will consider a panel covering at least flu and SARS-CoV-2 and RSV as the most responsible approach and reimburse accordingly.
 - ☐ A. true
 - ☐ B. false
- In addition to the usual unknowns related to how effective the new flu vaccine will be (it typically falls between _____ percent and _____ percent), there is the additional complexity of estimating how many people will get the vaccine.
 - ☐ A. 20; 60
 - ☐ B. 30; 50
 - ☐ C. 40; 50
 - ☐ D. 20; 50
- The pooled-testing strategy only works, though, if COVID-19 prevalence in a community remains _____.
 - ☐ A. high
 - ☐ B. static
 - ☐ C. low
 - ☐ D. moderate
- _____ tests and flexible platforms that allow for multiplexing several pathogens in a single assay will be an essential tool for dealing with the potential crisis that lies ahead of us and should help to ease the _____ stress associated with dramatically higher testing rates.
 - ☐ A. rapid molecular; reimbursement
 - ☐ B. rapid molecular; supply chain
 - ☐ C. antigen; staffing
 - ☐ D. antigen; supply chain

Tests can be taken online or by mail. Easy registration and payment options are available through NIU by following the links found at www.mlo-online.com/ce.

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