

EasyCOV: new positive evaluation of the saliva test by the National Authority for Health

On 23 January 2021, France's National Authority for Health (Haute Autorité de Santé) issued a new positive evaluation of RT-PCR saliva tests, which should lead very soon to an expansion in their indications. This evaluation is based on a study of 64 trials comprising 18,931 patients. On the occasion of this publication, the HAS also lifted the obligation to check positive results generated by RT-LAMP saliva tests with an RT-PCR test.

The HAS's opinion is available in full here: https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3234225/fr/la-has-amorce-la-reevaluation-des-tests-rt-pcr-salivaires-a-la-lumiere-de-nouvelles-donnees

A new opinion is expected soon, and will specify the conditions under which saliva tests should be conducted, their indications and their place in the strategy for handling SARS-CoV-2 infection.

In September 2020, the HAS defined initial indications for the use of saliva tests. On 28 November 2020, it recommended the use and reimbursement of the EasyCOV test in symptomatic patients for whom a nose and throat swab would be impossible or difficult, but explained that a positive result had to be confirmed by a saliva RT-PCR test, a requirement that has now been lifted. This new evaluation has further strengthened recognition of the test's diagnostic performances, and is expected to lead to an expansion of its use.

Month after month, EasyCOV is therefore strengthening its position as a lab test at the heart of diagnostic and detection strategies for Covid-19. The consortium developing and marketing the device – made up of the biotechnology company SKILLCELL (ALCEN group), SYS2DIAG laboratory (CNRS/ALCEN) and VOGO – is pleased with this further progress made.

As a reminder, EasyCOV is a viral RNA detection tool that is easier and faster (40 min) than RT-PCR testing. The RT-LAMP technique on which EasyCOV is based can amplify viral RNA, and then reveal whether it is present in a saliva sample after two heating periods of 10 minutes at 80°C then 29 minutes at 65°C, respectively. Results are accessed via a digital application, using colour coding. The saliva sample should be taken by a health professional. The test analysis stage can be done by a medical laboratory (at the lab or any venue that can ensure adequate health safety and quality) or by a doctor (GP practice, health centre or care home).

About SKILLCELL

An ALCEN group subsidiary. SkillCell develops in-field diagnostic tests using its simplicity-centred approach: tests that must be able to be used by anybody, anywhere and at any time. Founded in Guadeloupe in 2017, the company has offices in Jarry (Guadeloupe), Paris and Montpellier. The SkillCell team brings together scientific experts and seasoned manufacturers to find solutions to medical and societal diagnostic testing issues by providing relevant, high-quality information that allows users to make well-informed choices with full transparency.

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About CNRS

The French National Center for Scientific Research is one of the most recognized and renowned public research institutions in the world. For more than 80 years, it has continued to attract talent at the highest level and to nurture multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research projects at the national, European and international levels. Geared towards the public interest, it contributes to the scientific, economic, social and cultural progress of France. The CNRS is above all 32,000 women and men, more than 1,000 laboratories in partnership with universities and other higher education institutions bringing together more than 120,000 employees and 200 professions that advance knowledge by exploring the living world, matter, the Universe, and the functioning of human societies. The CNRS ensures that this mission is carried out in compliance with ethical rules and with a commitment to professional equality. The close relationship it establishes between its research missions and the transfer of acquired knowledge to the public makes it today a key player in innovation in France and around the world. Partnerships with companies are at the heart of its technology transfer policy, and the start-ups that have emerged from CNRS laboratories bear witness to the economic potential of its research. The CNRS provides also access to research findings and data, and this sharing of knowledge targets many audiences: scientific communities, the media, decision-makers, economic players, and the general public.

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About VOGO

VOGO develops, markets and distributes live & replay, audio and video solutions for spectators and professionals in sports arenas. VOGO's disruptive solution for spectators transforms the stadium experience by providing multi-camera content on demand for viewing on tablets and smartphones, irrespective of the number of people connected. In the professional sphere, VOGO's video solution provides analytical and decision-making tools (referee assistance, medical diagnostics, coaching, etc.). The acquisition of Vokkero® in October 2019 enriched this range of video solutions, with the integration of a line of audio communications systems that has drawn international recognition not just in the sporting sphere (more than 20 disciplines) but also in industry, services and healthcare. All of the Group's technologies have patent protection. VOGO is present in France (Montpellier, Paris and Grenoble) and in North America, with an office in New York. The Group has been listed on the Euronext Growth stock market since November 2018 (ISIN code: FR0011532225 – ALVGO).

For more information: www.vogo-group.com

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