

New device IDs disease-causing germs

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(HealthDay)—A new spectrometer system designed to identify 193 yeast and bacteria that are capable of making people sick has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Vitek MS can screen for yeasts such as *Candida* and *Malassezia* and bacteria from the *Staphylococcaceae* and *pneumonia* families, the agency said in a news release. People with AIDS and others with [weakened immune systems](#) are most prone to infections from these germs.

The device uses a laser to break germs into pattern-forming particles that are unique to each [yeast](#) or bacterium, the FDA said. Only a small amount is necessary to identify these germs, which collectively are responsible for skin, bloodstream and respiratory infections.

In clinical testing, the new device correctly identified a germ's scientific group or family more than 93 percent of the time, the agency said.

The Vitek MS is manufactured by bioMérieux Inc of Durham, N.C.

More information: The FDA has more about [this approval](#).

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