

Review: Rapid antigen tests accurate for strep diagnosis

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Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

(HealthDay)—Rapid antigen diagnostic tests (RADTs) can be used for accurate diagnosis of group A streptococcal (GAS) pharyngitis for management of sore throat in primary care settings, according to a study published online Sept. 8 in *Pediatrics*.

Wei Ling Lean, M.B.B.S., from Royal Children's Hospital in Australia, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to identify studies evaluating the [diagnostic accuracy](#) of RADTs for GAS pharyngitis.

The researchers identified 48 studies that assessed the diagnostic accuracy of GAS RADTs using throat culture on blood agar as a reference standard. Sensitivity and specificity of RADTs using overall summary estimates were 0.86 and 0.96, respectively. Estimates for

pediatric data were similar. The best diagnostic accuracy was seen with molecular-based RADTs. Study methodologies varied considerably. Insufficient data prevented meta-regression/subgroup analysis within each test type.

"RADTs may not require culture backup for negative tests in most low-incidence rheumatic fever settings," the authors write.

Two study authors received funding for a 2012 study of a Quidel Corp. rapid antigen diagnostic test product.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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