Rapid HTA

To assess alternative diagnostic approaches for the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

Dr Máirín Ryan
Pathogen detection tests

Detection of active infection early in the clinical course of infection.
Real time RT-PCR

- High sensitivity and specificity
- Current reference standard for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2
- Long turnaround times

Newer test kits have the potential to:

- leverage off existing platforms already in use in laboratories
- have shorter turnaround times
- alleviate pressure on laboratories
- accelerate clinical decision-making
Antigen detection tests
Antigen detection tests

- Faster turnaround time compared to RT-PCR
- Performance data is not yet available for CE-marked devices
- WHO advises use in research only until more evidence is available
- Could be used to supplement current lab-based RT-PCR case detection

Rapid HTA
Detection of the host immune response

Antibody testing is limited to later in the clinical course of infection after the host has mounted an immune response.
Antibody testing

- Assess population level immunity
- Could inform modelling of the course of the pandemic and public health response

But there are knowledge gaps:

- duration of immunity and if re-infection can occur
- potential for cross-reactivity with other respiratory pathogens
- extent of immunity in the Irish population
Quality assurance

Ongoing and dynamic monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 testing is needed to ensure timely and accurate results.
Quality assurance

- Independent clinical validation of tests
- Local verification
- Ongoing quality assurance programme

Planning now to support rapid deployment of tests that meet the standards once available and validated for use.
thank you!

Dr Máirín Ryan

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