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Vietnamese and Japanese
researchers develop test kit for
SARS-CoV-2

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HÀ NỘI – Fifteen researchers from Việt Nam’s National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and Japan’s Nagasaki University have successfully produced antigens to develop quick test kits for SARS-CoV-2.



Medical workers conduct rapid COVID-19 tests for people in Lê Lợi Commune and vendors at Hà Vỹ Poultry Wholesale Market in Hà Nội's Thường Tín District last month. VNA/VNS Photo Vũ Sinh

If the ELISA test kits are certificated by Việt Nam's Health Ministry and permitted for mass production, Việt Nam would be able to stop importing kits from S Korea.

Antigens are a substance that promote the production of antibodies in the body.

According to the World Health Organisation, the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISAs) are the most widely used type of assay. They have evolved from viral lysate tests to tests containing recombinant protein and synthetic peptide antigens.

Head of the institute Đặng Đức Anh said the development of the test kits started as soon as the institute’s researchers has cultivated and isolated the new strain of coronavirus in early February.

At that time, Việt Nam was one of the first four countries in the world to have isolated the new strain.

Đức Anh said that the test kit effectively detected antibodies in people with SARS-CoV-2.

At present, there are only two testing methods for SARS-CoV-2: the real-time PCR and the rapid test for SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis which provides qualitative detection of IgG and/or IgM from human serum, Đức Anh said, “An advantage of the rapid test is the fast results, but they can be inaccurate,” Anh said, adding that his institute’s researchers aim was to find a testing method that could produce both quick and exact results.

The rapid ELISA test could test multiple blood samples at the same time, he said.

According to the National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, the ELISA test could make use of the ELISA testing machines that were already available at hospitals across the country from central level to district level.

The ELISA tests are also used to diagnose HIV, dengue and other diseases.

According to the Ministry of Health, Việt Nam had become the fifth country in the world to successfully produce

an antibody test for the new coronavirus.

Compared to similar foreign test kits, the Vietnamese model has noticeable advantages such as being easy to use, high levels of safety, and accuracy of about 95 per cent compared to imported kits with an accuracy of about 70-75 per cent.

They also cost only US\$5, much cheaper than imported kits.

Sức Khỏe & Đời Sống (Health and Life) newspaper reported on Tuesday that the Health Ministry was certifying the test kits to allow massive production.

The new test would mean the country could ensure the medicine used for COVID-19 treatment regimens, face masks, protective suits and ventilators, as well as methods for testing, screening and detecting COVID-19 patients, the newspaper reported. VNS

Source:

<https://vietnamnews.vn/society/716226/vietnamese-and-japanese-researchers-develop-test-kit-for-sars-cov-2.html>



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