

Diagnostics project.

Rapid and accurate diagnosis of malaria will save lives and improve the treatment for the disease. Diagnosis is based on microscopy, PCR and Rapid Diagnostic Tests. Rapid Diagnostic Tests are antibody based lateral flow strips detecting malaria parasite antigens. Recently parasites from patients in Peru were reported not to express the Histidine Rich Protein II which is the most popular target for Rapid Diagnostic Tests. Others have reported failure of tests when exposed to the high ambient temperatures found in many malaria areas and false positives. Our approach is to identify and evaluate new malarial antigens as alternate targets to those currently used. We aim to improve the sensitivity of these tests and are assessing alternate antibodies in the tests to reduce false positives. Rapid Diagnostic Tests do not require electricity and have the advantage of point of care use.