Letter to the editor RE: Fulford et al., 2021 'A point-of-care lateral flow assay for neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2'

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eBioMedicine 2022;77: 103898
Published online xxx
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2022.103898

In a recent *eBioMedicine* publication, Fulford et al. reported the development of a point-of-care lateral flow assay for neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. In "Evidence before this study", the authors stated that PubMed literature searches, including MedRxiv pre-print servers as well as manual searches in relevant papers up to 11 October 2021, did not reveal prior reports of "deployable, visual point of care test for measuring levels of protective levels of SARS-CoV-2 protection.[1]" This statement is incorrect because the authors reference our MedRxiv pre-print, "Development of a rapid point-of-care test that measures neutralizing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2," in reference 18, indicating that our paper preceded theirs. Indeed, our manuscript was available on MedRxiv since December 2020 with doi:https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.12.15.20248264, prior to Fulford's et al. report. Of note, our paper is published in December 2021, Volume 145 issue of Journal Clinical Virology.[2]

We completely agree with Fulford's assertion that tests which measure levels of neutralizing antibodies are critical for determining correlates of protection in vaccine recipients. Because antibody levels decline over time, functional tests such as ours and Fulford's could be used to determine when individuals are no longer protected from infection and can make an informed choice to receive a booster vaccination. Additionally, we believe every vaccine recipient has a right to know how well their vaccine induced protective antibodies.

Contributors

DFL wrote this Letter in consultation with AJR, AS-N, MJG-M and SS who each participated editing the Letter.

Declaration of interests

DFL receives grant support from Axim Biotechnologies, AS-N, MJG-M and SS are employees of Axim Biotechnologies. AJR has no competing interests.

References

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2 Lake DF, Roeder AJ, Kaleta E, et al. Development of a rapid point-of-care test that measures neutralizing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. *J Clin Virol*. 2021;145: 105024. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcv.2021.105024.

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