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Letter to the Editor

Anti-HIV-1 antibody detection in urine

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article “Usefulness of enzyme immunoassay (EIA) for screening of anti HIV antibodies in urinary specimens: A comparative analysis” by Sahni et al published in *Med J Armed Forces India* 2014; 70:211–214.¹ The study highlights the importance of non-invasive testing for HIV-1 with good sensitivity and specificity, this being relevant, especially for developing countries with resource limitations. Having gone through the article I would like to add the following:

Connell et al reported 99.4% positivity in 158 urine specimens from seropositive subjects by rapid IgG-capture enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (GACELISA).² The utility of rapid HIV-1 test, used to detect antibodies to HIV-1 in urine, was reiterated by Constantine et al.³ Further to this, Yoshihara et al assayed urine samples from 11 institutes in Japan to examine the clinical utility of anti-HIV antibody detection kit by enzyme immunoassay method, and reported 100% diagnostic sensitivity for HIV infection with no false negative cases in urine samples from 233 HIV infected study patients.⁴ Taye et al, on comparing the results obtained with a golden standard (HIV test algorithm), reported a sensitivity and specificity of urine EIA test kit as 99.5% and 98.3%, respectively, thus, once again highlighting, the utility of urine test as an alternative method for HIV antibody detection, with greater patient acceptance to give urine samples than serum or whole blood test. In India, Nag et al demonstrated in 65 individuals with unknown HIV status that the urine EIA test was 100% sensitivity and 88.8 % specificity.⁵

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Reply

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the learned reader for the points brought out by him which has once again confirmed the facts as far as the sensitivity and specificity of the Urine ELISA test found in this present study as compared vis a vis with other international

studies published so far on the subject as highlighted in his comments. In addition we would also like to highlight the fact that Urine ELISA being a non invasive technique offers higher safety to the health care and laboratory worker besides being a simple test which offers ease in sample collection and testing.