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LabCorp launches 4th gen HIV antigen assay

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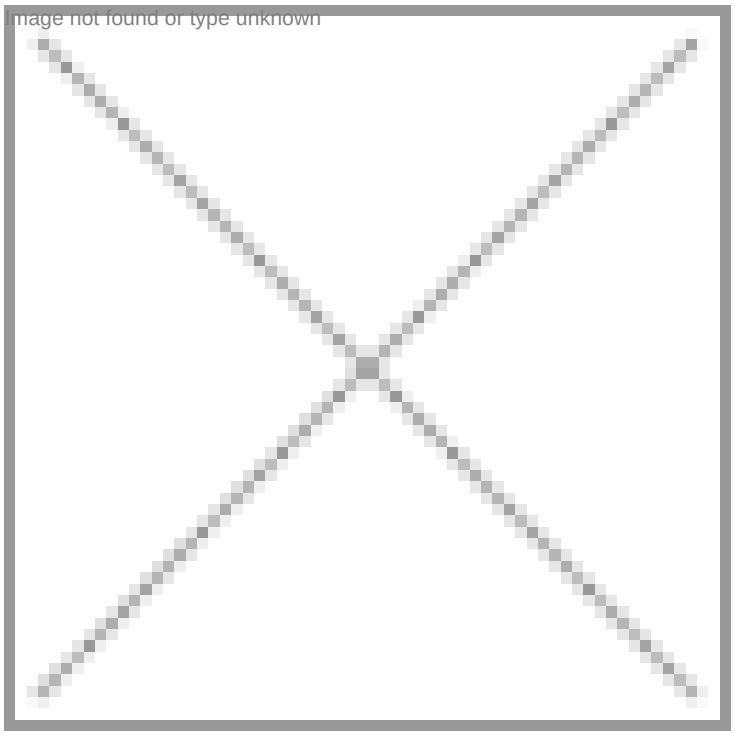

Singapore: Laboratory Corporation of America has released 4th generation HIV antigen/antibody combination assay and a new diagnostic algorithm for earlier detection of HIV that can improve individual treatment and help reduce the spread of HIV in the population.

Fourth generation HIV antigen assays have the ability to detect both the HIV antibodies (IgG and IgM) and the HIV p24 antigen simultaneously prior to seroconversion. On average, the 4th generation assay allows for detection of HIV seven days earlier in acutely infected individuals than would be possible with 3rd generation assays. These assays are an important enhancement to LabCorp's test menu, which encompasses the most comprehensive, cost-effective diagnostic products available to provide physicians and their patients critical information for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of multiple disease states.

In addition to offering this advanced HIV diagnostic tool, LabCorp introduced a new diagnostic algorithm that improves the screening and diagnosis of HIV infection. The algorithm uses the 4th generation test as a first step, with subsequent confirmation of the initial HIV-positive result with a highly sensitive and specific immunoassay that is FDA approved to differentiate between HIV-1 and HIV-2 infections.

"Fourth-generation HIV screening and associated supplemental testing is a valuable addition to the tools available to achieve early diagnosis of HIV," said Dr. Mark Brecher, LabCorp's Chief Medical Officer. "Detection of acute infections using the fourth-generation assay provides an improved opportunity for early intervention and the potential to affect transmission rates."