



**OPERATIONAL
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SNAPSHOT**

Field Evaluation of Pan-Lassa Rapid Diagnostic Test in Nigeria

Lassa fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever endemic in West Africa, with Nigeria bearing the highest burden.

Diagnosis requires PCR testing in well-equipped laboratories, which are often unavailable in primary and secondary healthcare facilities where patients first present.

A point-of-care **rapid diagnostic test** (RDT) adhering to REASSURED* criteria is urgently needed. This study prospectively evaluated the [®]ReLASV Pan-Lassa RDT under real-world conditions at a federal tertiary hospital in Abakaliki, Nigeria, during an outbreak period.

*REASSURED refers to diagnostic tests that are Real-time connected, Easy to collect, Affordable, Sensitive, Specific, User-friendly, Rapid and robust, Equipment-free, and Deliverable to end-users.





The test was very good at showing when someone didn't have Lassa fever, so-called high specificity, but it was very poor at detecting people who were actually infected, so-called low sensitivity.



Laboratory plasma testing improved sensitivity, yet results remained insufficient, with positive RDT outcomes mainly occurring in patients with higher viral loads.



Implementation was limited by heavy protective equipment and long wait times, limiting feasibility in busy clinical settings during outbreak response.



Key takeaways

The Pan-Lassa RDT cannot currently be recommended; substantial improvements in sensitivity and usability are required for safe, effective clinical adoption.

PCR remains essential despite infrastructure barriers, underscoring the urgent need for reliable point-of-care diagnostics tailored to low-resource outbreak environments.

Study: Elsinga J, Sunyoto T, di Stefano L, et al. Field evaluation of validity and feasibility of Pan-Lassa rapid diagnostic test for Lassa fever in Abakaliki, Nigeria: a prospective diagnostic accuracy study. *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. 2024;24(9):1037–1044. doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(24)00184-1.

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