Reviewer's report

Title: Low specificity of HIV-testing on sputum specimens kept at ambient temperatures for 4 to 7 days

Version: 1 Date: 26 April 2007

Reviewer: Nelson L Michael

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General

Egwaga et al. contributes the expected result to the field that oral fluids cannot be stored prior to OraQuick testing. OraSure performed such testing prior to PMA submission which is why fresh specimen testing is required in the package insert. That said, many diagnostics groups in resource-limited areas of the world will be tempted to perform delayed testing. This paper will highlight the very great hazard of this approach.

重大必需修订（作者必须在决定发表前回复）

1. Eliminate discussion about the specificity differences between split and unsplit specimens as the differences were not statistically significant.

2. Explain the sentence, “Proportion of sputum samples available for testing on day 7 was lower if the result of testing on day 4 was negative than if it were positive.” I assume that negative day 4 sputum specimens were more likely to be discarded, but this needs to be explained.

自由修订（作者可以忽略）

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.