

UPDATE ON RAPID DIAGNOSTIC DEVICES FOR *VIVAX* MALARIA

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The past decade has seen rapid development of malaria rapid diagnostic devices (MRDDs) or dipsticks, based on immuno-chromatographic techniques to detect specific malaria antigens. Most of the development has focused on *P. falciparum*, but several products have been developed for detection of *P. vivax* and the other non-*falciparum* *Plasmodia*. Marketed products include OptiMAL^R (Flow Inc., Portland OR) ICTTM Malaria P.f./P.v. (AMRAD-ICT, Brookvale, NSW, Australia) and NOW^R ICT malaria P.f./P.v. (Binax, Inc., Portland ME). These products and other prototypes were rigorously tested by the U.S. Army and AFRIMS between 1998 and 2001. These results will be reviewed and strengths and limitations of currently available assays for use in malaria control programs will be discussed.

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