Singapore

OraQuick® HIV Test Receives Approvals from Singapore Ministry of Health

Rockeby biomed is pleased to announce that it has obtained approvals from the Singapore Ministry of Health (MOH) for the sale of the OraQuick® Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test in Singapore. Singapore is the first country in Asia to have granted the approval for OraQuick®, a rapid oral fluid test for the detection of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Types 1 and 2.

The OraQuick® test can detect the presence of antibodies to both HIV-1 and HIV-2 in oral fluid, fingerstick whole blood, venipuncture whole blood, and serum or plasma samples. The test is easy to use and with oral fluid, requires no needles or hazardous waste disposal. The results of the test are available within 20 minutes. The OraQuick® test conforms to the test approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, made for distribution within the United States. OraQuick® is manufactured through a third party supplier by OraSure Technologies Inc.

The Singapore MOH has approved the OraQuick® test for the restricted use of testing for HIV, in hospitals in emergency/special situations, e.g. post-needlestick exposure testing and testing on multiple injury patients. The MOH has also approved the use of the OraQuick® test in designated medical clinics for anonymous HIV testing of patients using OraQuick®. At these clinics, individuals can be tested for HIV with OraQuick® and, only in the event the test results are positive, a doctor will proceed to do the blood-based laboratory test by Western blot to confirm whether the person is HIV-positive. Through this entire process, the individual identity will be kept anonymous.

Because OraQuick® is a rapid test, results having laboratory accuracy can be obtained within 20 minutes, thereby reducing the stress and anxiety stemming from longer waiting periods, as well as blood taking. Previously, patients had to wait from a day to a week to obtain their test results, as blood samples had to be sent to and from MOH-approved laboratories for testing.

Rockeby biomed is the sole marketing company and distributor of OraQuick® in Singapore. Dr Tan Sze Wee, CEO of Rockeby biomed said, “The OraQuick® HIV test uses oral fluid. There are no needles involved; the entire testing process is convenient and painless for patients.”

About Rockeby biomed
Rockeby biomed Limited is Singapore-based, biotechnology company specializing in research, development and marketing of rapid testing technologies for infectious disease in humans and animals. The company’s core specialization is the development of rapid testing diagnostics.

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