

Cryptococcal Antigen (CrAg) reflex testing

CrAg lateral flow assay (CrAg LFA) is a dipstick test for the qualitative or semi quantitative detection of the capsular polysaccharide antigen of *Cryptococcus* species complex (*C. neoformans* and *C. gattii*) in serum, plasma or CSF samples. CrAg LFA can detect Cryptococcal Meningitis 22 days before onset of symptoms (asymptomatic antigenemia) thereby triggering treatment.

Who to test?

Automatically test all patients samples with CD4 < 200 cells/μl. Or when patient is WHO stage III/IV. Or when requested by a clinician.

Test procedure and Quality control

Avoid using plasma from haemolysed samples as they can produce false positive results due to the high background colour on strips. Conduct QC for CrAg test weekly; follow steps in the SOP to evaluate accuracy of the test kit using +ve and -ve controls.



1 Collect and organize ALL necessary materials before starting any testing



2 Label the cryovial tube identical with EDTA tube containing the patient specimen to be analyzed.



3 Add one drop of LF specimen diluents into the labeled cryovial tube.



4 Add 40μl of plasma into the cryovial tube and mix.



5 Take one test strip from LF test strip vial and insert into the mixture.

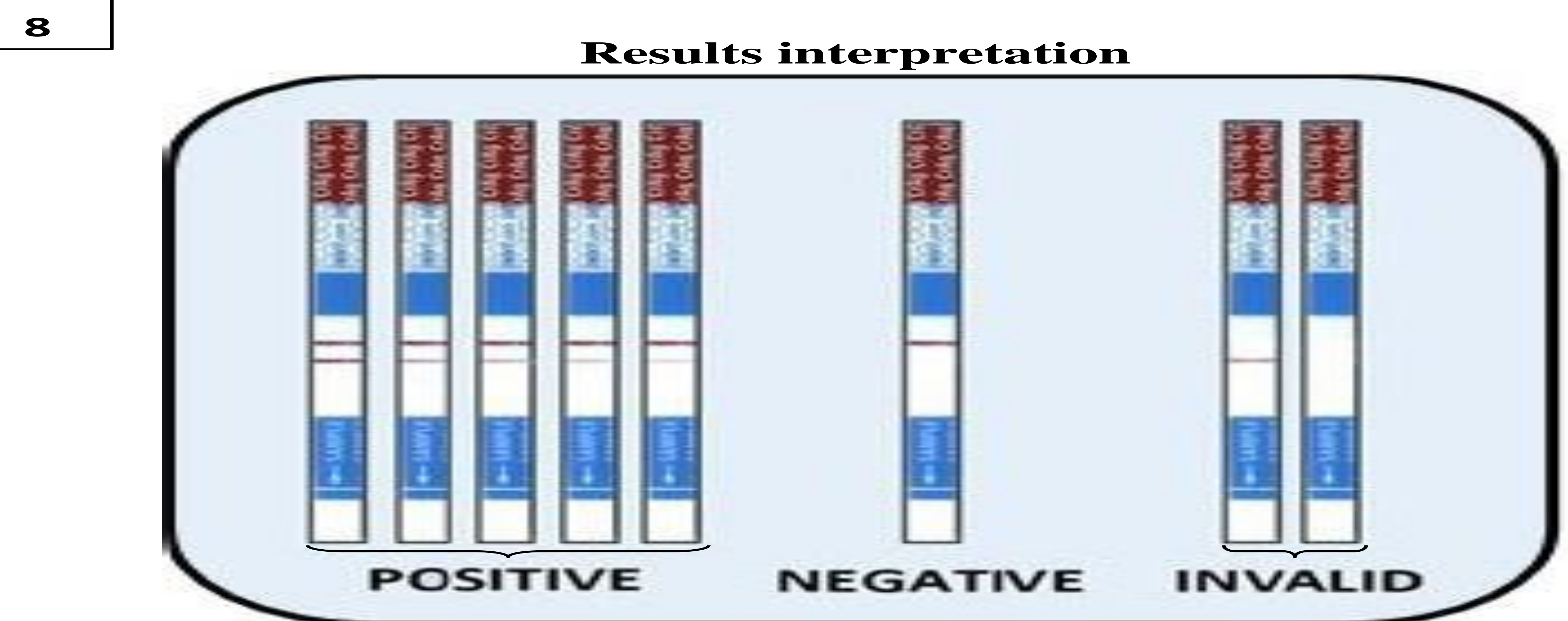


6 Wait 10 minutes before reading the test result



7 Complete the CrAg register

NB: Do not leave the LF test strip vial open



8 **Results interpretation**
Expect: one of the three possible results per each test performed (Positive, Negative and Invalid)