

REF: GISTA-702H(1TKi); GISTA-702H(2TKi); GISTA-702H(5TKi); GISTA-702H(25TKi) | English

Rapid test for the qualitative detection of group A *Streptococcus* antigens in human throat swab samples.¹ For self-testing, in-vitro diagnostic use only.

INTENDED PURPOSE

The Step A Rapid Test is a lateral flow chromatographic immunoassay[®] for the qualitative detection of group A *Streptococcus* antigens in human throat swab samples. The test is not automated. This product is suitable for self-testing by patients over 16 years of age. It is recommended that individuals aged from 3-16 should be tested by a parent or legal guardian. The test is an in-vitro diagnostic device intended for use as an aid in the diagnosis of a *Streptococcus* A (Step A) infection in patients with typical symptoms, such as fever, pharyngitis, etc.

SUMMARY

Streptococcus pyogenes is a species of non-motile gram-positive cocci which are categorised as Lancefield group A, which may cause serious infections such as pharyngitis, respiratory infection, impetigo, endocarditis, meningitis, puerperal sepsis and arthritis. Left untreated, these infections may lead to serious complications, including rheumatic fever, peritonsillar abscesses or scarlet fever with a rash and sore throat.¹ Traditional identification procedures for group A streptococcal infection involve the isolation and identification of viable organisms using techniques that require 24 to 48 hours or longer.^{1,4}

The Step A Rapid Test is an immunological test designed to specifically identify *Streptococcus* A bacteria in oropharyngeal infections. The test helps the patient understand whether a sore throat is caused by *Streptococcus* A.

TEST PRINCIPLE

The Step A Rapid Test is a lateral flow immunoassay based on the principle of the double-antibody sandwich technique[®]. The test cassette consists of: 1) a burgundy conjugate pad containing rabbit anti-group A *Streptococcus* monoclonal antibodies conjugated with colloidal gold (Step A, Ab conjugates), 2) a nitrocellulose membrane strip containing a test line (T line)[®] and a control line (C line)[®]. The T line is pre-coated with further rabbit anti-group A *Streptococcus* monoclonal antibody reagent, forming a burgundy T line, indicating a group A *Streptococcus* positive test result.

When an adequate volume of a test specimen is dispensed into the sample well of the test cassette, the specimen migrates by capillary action along the membrane. The group A *Streptococcus* antigens[®], if present in the specimen, will bind to the Step A Ab conjugates. The immunocomplex is then captured on the membrane by the pre-coated rabbit anti-group A *Streptococcus* monoclonal antibody reagent, forming a burgundy T line, indicating a group A *Streptococcus* positive test result.

The test contains an internal control (C line) which, regardless of colour development on the T line, should exhibit a burgundy coloured control line, caused by the immunocomplex of the control antibodies. If no C line appears, the test result is invalid and the specimen must be retested using another test cassette.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- For in-vitro diagnostic use only.
- Read these instructions for use carefully before performing the test. The test cassette is reliable if the instructions are followed correctly (reaction time, how the sample is collected, sample extraction etc.).
- The assay is intended for use as an aid in the diagnosis of a group A streptococcal infection. The test does not determine the state of infection or associated diseases.
- Dispose of following use. The test cassette is not suitable for reuse.
- Keep the test out of the reach of children.
- Extraction Reagent 1 contains sodium nitrite. Warning: harmful if swallowed, causes serious eye irritation.
- Do not touch the reaction area on the test cassette.
- Do not use beyond the expiry date.
- Do not use the test cassette if the pouch is punctured or poorly sealed.
- The test is for external use only. Do not swallow reagents 1 and 2 or other items in the box. If swallowed, seek medical advice immediately and show the remaining contents of the box, the instructions for use and the packaging.
- If liquids come into contact with the eyes, skin or other mucousae, immediately rinse thoroughly with water and contact a physician. Show the bottles' labels.
- Do not interchange bottle caps between reagents.
- Please follow local regulations when disposing of used tests.
- All test kit components are for single-use only with the exception of the tube stand (which can be re-used), the instructions for use and reagents 1 and 2, which must be stored tightly sealed, at a temperature between 2°C and 30°C. The rest of the test kit must be stored at 2°C - 30°C.
- The swab is a single-use sterilised medical device and is provided in a sterilised state. It has been sterilised using ethylene oxide, and CANNOT be re-used. Do not use if the packaging is damaged. If any serious events occur in relation to the test, please report them to Greylynx and the competent authority of your country.
- In the event that the patient is unable to complete the test themselves, it is recommended that the test be performed with the help of an adult. If you are currently helping someone else with the test, please follow the instructions for completing the test.

COMPONENTS

The Step A Rapid Test contains the test cassette (packaged in pouch with desiccant), 'disposable swab', 'tongue depressor', 'Reagent 1', 'Reagent 2', 'test tube', 'tube tip', 'tube stand' and 'instructions for use'.



- Test cassette:** The test cassette is composed of glass fiber, a nitrocellulose membrane, a plastic barrier, absorbent paper. The main components are rabbit anti-group A *Streptococcus* monoclonal antibodies, goat anti-rabbit polyclonal antibodies, colloidal gold labeled rabbit anti-group A *Streptococcus* monoclonal antibodies.
- Disposable swab:** For sample collection.
- Reagent 1:** Bottle with 1 M sodium nitrite and white bottle cap.
- Reagent 2:** Bottle with 0.15 M acetic acid, with red bottle cap.
- Test tube:** For mixing reagent 1, reagent 2 and processing samples.
- Tube tip:** To cover the test tube, after the sample.
- Tube stand:** Holds the test tube (Note: Please use the opening mark on the test kit box as a tube stand).
- Tongue depressor:** Flatten the tongue to assist in specimen sampling.
- Instructions for use:**

Component Name	Package			
	GISTA-702H (1TKi)	GISTA-702H (2TKi)	GISTA-702H (5TKi)	GISTA-702H (25TKi)
1 test/kit	2	5	25	25
Test cassette	1	2	5	25
Disposable swab	1	2	5	25
Reagent 1	1	1	1	1
Reagent 2	1	1	1	1
Test tube	1	2	5	25
Tube tip	1	2	5	25
Tube stand	1	1	1	1
Tongue depressor	1	2	5	25
Instructions for use	1	1	1	1

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

- Timer
- Store the test kit between 2-30°C and 10% to 80 % relative humidity[®]. Keep away from light. Exposure to temperatures and / or humidity outside the specified conditions may cause inaccurate results.
- Do not freeze. Use the test at temperatures between 15-30°C.
- Do not use beyond the expiration date (printed on the foil pouch and box).
- To avoid any risk and obtain optimal results, the test should be performed within one hour of removing the test cassette from its sealed for pouch. When the temperature is higher than 30°C or the humidity is higher than 90%, use immediately after opening the foil pouch.
- The reagents are stable for 24 months. Extraction reagents, stressed by multiple cycles of opening/closing, still demonstrate the expected functionality.
- Note: All expiration dates are printed in Year-Month-Day format. 2022-06-18 indicates June 18, 2022.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

- Specimen collection**
 - Collect a throat swab sample using the disposable swab provided with the test kit. Swab the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and/or other surrounding inflamed areas, avoiding contact with the tongue, inner cheeks, and teeth. Fastening more than half an hour before collecting a sample is recommended to avoid food interference.
- Specimen handling**
 - Testing is recommended immediately after collecting a throat swab sample. If testing cannot be performed immediately, throat swab samples should be stored in a clean, dry, airtight container at room temperature for up to 4 hours and at 2-8°C for up to 24 hours. Do NOT FREEZE.

TEST PROCEDURE

Allow the tests, samples, and reagents to equilibrate to room temperature(15-30°C) prior to testing.

If the specific patient age is 3-16, the following test steps should be carried out by a parent or legal guardian.

- Wash hands with hot water and soap, rinse with clean water and dry.
- Place the tube stand on a clean, dry, flat surface. Place the empty plastic test tube in one of the openings in the tube stand-FIG.1



FIG-1

- Add 6 drops of Reagent 1 (white bottle cap) and 4 drops of Reagent 2 (red bottle cap) to the test tube, and fully mix-FIG.2, FIG.3



Reagent 1



Reagent 2



FIG-2



FIG-3

- Collecting the sample:
 - For self-testing by individuals over 16 years of age
 - Open the pouch containing the disposable swab. Remove the swab using the plastic handle

- and avoid touching the cotton tip-FIG.4
- Stand in front of a mirror, tilt your head backwards and open your mouth as much as possible. Pick up the tongue depressor with one hand and flatten the tongue.
- Use the other hand to insert the swab into the throat. Touch the back of the throat - the area around the tonsils and any reddened or painful areas-FIG.5 Rotating the swab is recommended because it increases the amount of sample collected. If you are struggling, ask someone to help you collect the sample.

- For individuals aged from 3-16, tested by a parent or legal guardian
- The pouch containing the disposable swab should be opened by the parent or legal guardian.
 - They should remove the swab using the plastic handle and avoid touching the cotton tip-FIG.4
 - The patient should stand face to face with their parent or legal guardian, tilt their head backwards and open their mouth as much as possible. The parent or legal guardian should pick up the tongue depressor with one hand and flatten the patient's tongue.
 - The parent or legal guardian can then use the other hand to insert the swab into the patient's throat. Touch the back of the throat - the area around the tonsils and any reddened or painful areas-FIG.5 Rotating the swab is recommended because it increases the amount of sample collected.



FIG-4



FIG-5

- After collecting the sample, insert the swab's cotton tip into the supplied plastic test tube that you already added the two reagents to and previously placed in the tube stand -FIG.6



FIG-6

- Holding the swab's plastic handle, rotate the swab against the sides of the test tube about 10 times to thoroughly mix the solution. Leave the swab to incubate for 1 minute -FIG.7
- Remove the test tube (with the swabs and extraction fluid still in it) from the tube stand. Using your thumb and index finger, press the sides of the test tube to release as much fluid as possible from the swab's cotton tip and collect it in the test tube. Remove the swab-FIG.8



FIG-7



FIG-8

- Dispose of the swab in compliance with local laws and put the test tube back into one of the openings in the tube stand.
- Add the tube tip to the plastic test tube -FIG.9
- Dispense 3 drops into the sample well on the test cassette -FIG.10



FIG-9



FIG-10

- Note: If the dispensed drop contains air bubbles, add another drop to the sample well. During the test, the test tube must be kept upright without tipping over.
- Wait for the coloured lines to appear. Read the result after 5 minutes. Do not read the results after more than 10 minutes.

RESULT INTERPRETATION



- Positive:** Two distinct coloured lines appear. One line should be in the control line region (C) and another line should be in the test line region (T), indicating that the result is positive. It indicates that you may be in a stage of group A streptococcal infection and should consult your doctor.
- Negative:** One coloured line appears in the control line region (C), no apparent coloured line appears in the test line region (T), indicating that the result is negative. It indicates that the concentration of the group A *Streptococcus* antigens present in the specimen. Therefore, any shade of colour in the test line region (T) should be considered positive.
- Invalid:** The control line fails to appear. Insufficient specimen volume or incorrect procedural techniques are the most likely reasons for control line failure. Review the procedure and repeat the test with a new test cassette. If the problem persists, discontinue using the test cassette immediately and contact your local distributor.

For medical questions, please contact your physician. The following addresses are also available: Bundesministerium für Gesundheit: www.bmg.bund.de; Email: poststelle@bmg.bund.de For questions regarding the Step A Rapid Test kit, please log in to <https://greylynx.com> or email us at info@greylynx.com

Note: Do not make any relevant medical decisions without consulting a qualified healthcare professional for advice.

LIMITATIONS

- The Step A Rapid Test is intended for self-testing, in-vitro diagnostic use only, and is intended for the qualitative detection of group A *Streptococcus* antigens in throat swab samples. Children younger than 3 years old may not use this Step A Rapid Test for testing.
- A positive result obtained using the Step A Rapid Test only indicates the presence of group A *Streptococcus* antigens in the sample and should not be used as the sole criterion for diagnosing a group A hemolytic streptococcal infection.
- A negative result may be obtained if the concentration of group A *Streptococcus* antigens present in the throat swab is insufficient or below the detection limit of the test. If symptoms persist or intensify, you should consult your doctor.
- Excessive blood or mucus in the swab sample may interfere with test performance and may produce false positive results.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Using 125 specimens, the results of the Step A Rapid Test compared to a culture method are shown as below:

Step A Rapid Test	Culture Method		
	Positive	Negative	Total
Positive	36	1	37
Negative	0	88	88
Total	36	89	125
Diagnostic sensitivity	100.00% (36/36, 95% CI: 90.26% to 100.00%)		
Diagnostic specificity	98.88% (88/89, 95% CI: 93.91% to 99.80%)		
Diagnostic accuracy	99.20% (124/125, 95% CI: 95.61% to 99.86%)		
Positive predictive value	97.30% 95% CI: 86.18% to 99.52%		
Negative predictive value	100.00% 95% CI: 95.82% to 100.00%		
Positive likelihood ratio	89.00 95% CI: 12.68 to 624.9		
Negative likelihood ratio	0.00		
False positive rate	1/(1+88)/100%=1.12%		
False negative rate	0/(0+36)/100%=0%		

- Clinical Performance**

Using 125 specimens, the results of the Step A Rapid Test compared to a culture method are shown as below:

Lay-person	Observer		
	Positive	Negative	Total
Positive	30	0	30
Negative	0	70	70
Total	30	70	100
Diagnostic sensitivity	100%		
Diagnostic specificity	100%		
Total concordance rate	100%		

Lay-person	Culture Method		
	Positive	Negative	Total
Positive	29	0	29
Negative	1	70	71
Total	30	70	100
Diagnostic sensitivity	96.67%		
Diagnostic specificity	100%		
Total concordance rate	99%		

- Analytical Sensitivity / Cut-off**

The limit of detection (LoD) of the Step A Rapid Test was established in dilution studies performed with 1 group A *Streptococcus* strain on the Step A Rapid Test. The LoD represents the concentration of group A *Streptococcus* that produces consistently positive results >95% at that time. The approximate LoD concentration and the cut-off value are same as 1 x 10³ organisms/mL.

- Cross-reactivity**

There was no cross-reaction with potential cross-reactive substances. The following organisms were tested at 1 x 10³ organisms/swab and showed negative results.

Potential cross-reactive substances	Potential cross-reactive substances	Potential cross-reactive substances
Group F <i>Streptococcus</i>	Group B <i>Streptococcus</i>	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>
<i>Streptococcus mutans</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i>
<i>Candida albicans</i>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>

<i>Neisseria sicca</i>	<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	Group C <i>Streptococcus</i>
Group G <i>Streptococcus</i>	<i>Streptococcus sanguinis</i>	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	<i>Neisseria sulfavia</i>
<i>Hemophilus influenzae</i>	/	/

- Interfering Substances**

There was no interference with the potentially interfering substances listed below.

Interfering substance	Concentration in specimen	Interfering substance	Concentration in specimen
4-Acetaminophenol	10 mg/mL	Benzocaine throat spray (Cepacol)	5% by volume
Menthol Throat Lozenges	5% w/w	Blood, type A	2% (v/v)
Acetylsalicylic acid	20 mg/mL	Blood, type B	2% (v/v)
Albuterol	0.063 mg/mL	Blood, type AB	2% (v/v)
Amantadine	500 ng/mL	Blood, type O	2% (v/v)
Mometasone	500 ng/mL	Dexamethasone	10 mg/mL
Mouthwash Listerine	5% (v/v)	Dextromethorphan	10 mg/mL
Mouthwash Lion	5% (v/v)	Diphenhydramine HCl	5 mg/mL
Ascorbic acid chewable tablets	5% by weight	Ibuprofen	10 mg/mL
Beclomethasone	500 ng/mL	Mucin	1 mg/mL
Nasal Spray	5% (v/v)	Osetamivir	500 ng/mL
Oxymetazoline	0.05 mg/mL	Phenylephrine	1 mg/mL
Zanamivir	1 mg/mL	Tobramycin	500 ng/mL
Saliva	10% (v/v)	Fody Dye	100% (v/v)
Whole Milk (Dairy)	12.50% (v/v)	Orange Juice	50% (v/v)
Ethanol	10% (v/v)	/	/

- Hook Effect**

Samples containing as high as 5 x 10⁶ organisms/mL of group A *Streptococcus* can still test positive. The tests do not show a hook or prozone effect up to the maximum observed physiological concentration (5 x 10⁶ organisms/mL).

- Reproducibility**

A reproducibility study was performed by two operators at three sites on five non-consecutive days with three batches of Step A Rapid Test, including two runs per day, two replicates of each sample per run, and each run was performed by a different operator. The intra-assay agreement was 100%. The inter-assay agreement was 100%.

- Repeatability**

A repeatability study was performed by one operator, testing 10 replicates of each sample using each lot of tests. A total of 3 lots of Step A Rapid Tests were tested in the study. The intra-assay agreement was 100%.

A summary of Safety and Performance can be obtained at <https://ec.europa.eu/bois/euadmed>.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- How does the Step A Rapid Test work?**

The Step A Rapid Test was made to selectively identify the presence of group A *Streptococcus* antigens in human throat swab samples using a combination of specific antibodies
- When should the test be used?**

The Step A Rapid Test can be carried out if the patient is experiencing symptoms such as pain when swallowing, a sore throat, red and swollen tonsils (sometimes with white spots or plaques), small red patches on the back of the palate (soft or hard), swollen lymph nodes, a fever, headache, nausea or vomiting, especially in children.
- What should I do if the test result is invalid?**

If the test result is invalid, you should take a new test cassette and repeat the test.
- If the test is positive, what should I do?**

A positive test result indicates you may have a group A streptococcal infection. Please see a doctor for medical aid.

- My test is negative. Does that mean I'm not infected?**

No. While a negative test result means that you are probably not infected, if you are experiencing serious complications, including rheumatic fever and inflammation, you should consult your doctor.
- Can I read the test result after more than 10 minutes?**

No, test results must be read within 10 minutes.

REFERENCES

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- Cohen JF, Bertille N, Cohen R, Chalmereau M. Rapid antigen detection test for group A *Streptococcus* in children with pharyngitis. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2016, Issue 12, Art. No: CD010522.
- Kyle G. Parker, Sumant Gandra, Scott Mutasehek, Kathleen G. Beavis, Vera Tesic, and Angella Charnot-Katsikas. Comparison of 3 Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests and a Rapid Antigen Test with Culture for the Detection of Group A *Streptococcus* from Throat Swabs. September 2019, 54(2), 164-169, JALM 165.
- Salama Bin Heneh, Zainab A. Malik, Ammar Hassan Khamsi and Fadi Y. A. Al-Najjar. High diagnostic accuracy of automated rapid Step A test reduces antibiotic prescriptions for children in the United Arab Emirates. Heneh et al. BMC Pediatrics. (2021) 21:52

INDEX OF SYMBOLS

	Consult instructions for use		Use by		Contains reagents for <= 25 tests
	For in-vitro diagnostic use only		Lot number		Catalogue number
	Storage temperature limitations		Manufacturer		Do not reuse
	Authorized representative		Date of manufacture		Unique device identifier
	Importer				

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Item Number	Abbreviations or Technical terms	Explanation
①	Lateral flow chromatographic immunoassay	A rapid test that uses a strip to detect antigens or antibodies by lateral flow.
②	Qualitative detection of Step A antigens in human throat swab samples	Using a throat swab to collect a sample, the test quickly determines whether Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> is present in the throat.
③	Double-antibody sandwich technique	An immunoassay technique that uses two specific antibodies to precisely capture and detect a target antigen according to the sandwich principle.
④	Antigen	An antigen (Ag). A substance that can induce the production of antibodies and is capable of eliciting an immune response.
⑤	Antibody	An antibody (Ab). Under the stimulation of antigenic substances, immunoglobulins produced by plasma cells differentiated from B cells can specifically bind to their corresponding antigens.
⑥	Control line (C line)	A line that must appear to verify the functionality of the test and the validity of the test strip. A coloured C line must develop regardless of whether the result is positive or negative, otherwise the result is invalid.
⑦	Test line (T line)	The line that displays the test result. Only when this line appears (along with the C line) does it demonstrate the detection of group A <i>Streptococcus</i> antigens, indicating a positive result.
⑧	%RH	Relative humidity
Version		Revision history
01		Add explanations of terms
		Date
		27.01.2026

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Schnelltest zum qualitativen Nachweis von Gruppe-A-Streptokokken-Antigenen in menschlichen Rachenabstrichproben¹. Zur Eigenanwendung nur für die in-vitro-Diagnostik.

ZWECKBESTIMMUNG

Der Step A Rapid Test ist ein chromatographischer Lateral-Flow-Immunoassay[®] zum qualitativen Nachweis von Gruppe-A-Streptokokken-Antigenen in menschlichen Rachenabstrichproben. Der Test ist nicht automatisiert. Dieses Produkt ist geeignet für die Selbsttestung durch Patienten über 16 Jahre. Es wird empfohlen, dass

