



Research Institute Alliance for the Promotion of Preventive Medicine

APPREMED

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Dr Sonja Optendrenk,
Dr Jens Spahn,
Bundesgesundheitsministerium,
Friedrichstraße 108,
DE-10117 Berlin, Germany

2021-05-17

Ref: Urinary biomarker COV50

Dear Dr Optendrenk,
Dear Minister Spahn,

I am contacting you to express my unconditional and full support for the clinical implementation of COV50 urine test. I am a physician and scientist, have published over 1400 manuscripts in leading scientific journals that have been cited over 100,000 times (h-index 120). I was involved in the study and, as such, I fully endorse the ground-breaking results.

This COV50 test is currently the only validated objective method for predicting the course of Covid-19 disease in patients with mild symptoms very within 1-3 days after PCR-confirmed COVID-19 infection. It is not possible to predict the course of disease in its early phase based on the available clinical and demographic parameters. The 4C score and reduced oxygen saturation reflect a severe course of the infection, but obviously only after substantial organ damage has already occurred, as evidenced for instance by the reduced oxygenation of the blood. In contrast, the COV50 test, in WHO stages 1-3 of the disease process, provide an early indication to start intervention with monoclonal antibodies, at a time point when stopping progression to severe and often deadly disease is still possible.

Your ministry has taken a major step forward by making the monoclonal antibodies available. It is now urgently necessary to ensure that monoclonal antibodies are allocated in a cost-effective way to the patients, who truly benefit from them, if administered in a timely manner. This can only be accomplished with an unbiased predictive test. Based on all studies currently published, the COV50 test is the only one worldwide that has demonstrated such a quality in an appropriate prospective clinical study. The study report passed stringent peer review and was published in eClinicalMedicine, a journal of the prestigious Lance family ([https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/eclinm/PIIS2589-5370\(21\)00163-2.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/eclinm/PIIS2589-5370(21)00163-2.pdf)).

I am, of course, available for any queries and I do hope that I have been able to convey a positive impetus with my letter. For the avoidance of any doubts: APPREMED (URL: www.appremed.org) is a not-for-profit Research Institute. Neither the Institute, nor I have any financial interest in the application of the COV50 test.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Dr Med Jan A. Staessen, MD, PhD

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