

Dengue Check

The first rapid over-the-counter test for dengue

The Problem

Patients don't know if they have dengue until it may already be too late. By that time, it could be fatal. In the Philippines where dengue is quite common, around 800 people die of dengue annually. Despite this risk, when people get a fever, they don't test for dengue right away. One of the reasons for this is they need to go to the hospital for a dengue test. However, in reality, people are hesitant to go to the hospital. What if a dengue test is available that can be done anywhere as the need arises? Worried that your child who has a fever may have dengue? Do the test and in 15 minutes you will know the answer. Our lab has developed such a test and simple to use.

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Addressable Market

Anyone who has a fever is a potential customer. Entry to the market can be through DOH who can deploy this test in rural and barangay health centers who will serve as sites for dengue screening. Furthermore, this can also be offered to the Department of Education who can deploy this test in public school clinics who will screen students for dengue to avoid further transmission.

Market Validation

Annually, 600-800 patients die of dengue in the Philippines.

Competitive Advantage

This test can be performed anywhere and a laboratory is not need to run the test. Moreover, this test is more specific and sensitive than existing commercially-available tests which are only available in hospitals.

Status

Validation, shelf life, and field testing will be conducted by the 4th quarter of this year 2015.

Business Revenue Model

We are planning to generate revenue from the licensure and the sale of the test.

The Solution

Develop a test that is cheaper, easy to use, and can be performed by health and allied health personnel anywhere, or even by the patients themselves. Patients no longer need to go to a hospital to be screened for dengue. This test can be made available to rural health centers who can screen anyone who has a fever for dengue. Furthermore, this test can also be performed in school clinics to test students if they have a fever.



Investment Requirements

A manufacturing facility is needed for commercial scale production of the test. Otherwise, production can be contracted to a third party who already has the requisite facility. Estimated cost of production per test is P390 for a minimum of 300,000 tests produced.

Measure of Profitability

Current available tests offered in hospitals cost around P1,500 - P2,000. If this test is sold for only P500, it will be quite affordable and will see a profit margin of P110 per test.



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