

Letter to the Editor

How Much Can We Save the Cost from Shifting from Single - Test Strip to Multiple - Test Strip in Point of Care Testing Analysis for Common Clinical Chemistry Parameters ?

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Editor, point of care testing (POCT) is the new concept that helps fasten the laboratory analysis in real clinical practice. New POCT analyzers can be useful for site testing of many clinical chemistry parameters. The use of strip test is common in performing a POCT test (1). Some reports confirm that the splitting of multiple-test strip into a single parameter is still reliable and can be a cost reduction method (2). According to this concern, the new generation of single-test strip for single parameter analysis is developed for serving the desire. However, new questions on economic aspects when used as panel of tests are raised. Here, the author shows the cost reduction in using of multiple-test strip replacing single-test strip when performing a panel of laboratory analysis. The cost identification was performed on a panel of renal parameters testing (total protein, BUN, creatinine, albumin, and uric acid). The situation of a POCT analyzer that can be applicable for both single-test and multiple-test strip reading (SpotChem Ez) was focused in this work. According to this work, the identified costs

for cost identification for single-test and multiple-test strip testings are equal to 6.8 US dollar/panel and 5.1 US dollar/panel respectively. It can show that 4.4 % of cost can be saved using multiple-test strip replacing single-test strip when performing a panel of laboratory analysis.

Conflict of interest

Connect Diagnostic Thailand is the main supporting agency to the Thai POCT forum and this work.

References

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