

# Seegene PCR test IDs omicron, VOCs in one tube

written by CAP TODAY  
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January 2022—Seegene unveiled the Novaplex SARS-CoV-2 Variants VII assay for research use only. The assay identifies positive COVID-19 cases and distinguishes between alpha, beta, gamma, delta, and omicron and its stealth version. The RT-PCR test targets five analytes including the *RdRP* gene and three omicron S-gene mutations, E484A, N501Y, HV69/70 deletion. It also targets endogenous internal controls, which serve as a control to verify specimen validity.



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# Postmortem oral fluid toxicology testing

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January 2022—Death investigators are tasked with the responsibility of providing irrefutable and accurate determinations in the cause and manner of death in a timely fashion for ongoing investigations. Outcomes of any death may be revealed by the specimens submitted for toxicology analysis. The conundrum of ample opinions is that there is no “one size fits all” when selecting appropriate specimens. Human nature tends to rely on traditional approaches for the collection, processing, and reporting of results because it’s easier to stay status quo. However, with drug overdose deaths increasing, reports are further delayed, causing an influx of backlogged cases. To assist with these issues, our laboratory developed an economical, time-efficient, safe, and less-invasive collection method that delivers real-time results within 24 to 48 hours, accelerating the autopsy process and the ability to close cases expeditiously.



## **A gap in need of a fix: EHRs and genomics**

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January 2022—“Workflow” evokes a process that moves smoothly, like water, that doesn’t break down or grind to a halt, a sequence of steps that can be completed in a seamless manner. Genomic workflows in information systems, however, have an especially poor fit with the concept of “flow.” As genomic data migrate from the laboratory to an electronic health record or from one EHR to another, significant gaps can result between generation, interoperability, and utilization that may lead the data to miscommunicate or mislead. “The technology behind next-generation sequencing and genetic testing in general has advanced by leaps and bounds over the last 10 to 15 years,” says Alexis Carter, MD, physician informaticist, pathology and laboratory medicine, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. While the use of genomic testing has expanded rapidly, “information systems and electronic health records have really not been able to keep up.”



## **Measuring direct oral anticoagulants—when, how**

written by CAP TODAY

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January 2022—Laboratories don’t have to monitor direct oral anticoagulants, but they might want to measure DOAC drug levels in some situations in some patients, said Karen A. Moser, MD, in a CAP21 session.

## [Labs hunt for solutions to staffing, plastics, and blood supply shortages](#)

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January 2022—“Still a pressure cooker and hotter now” and “grim.” Two comments that describe where some states were on Dec. 7 when Compass Group members met for their monthly call on COVID-19 and more—and this was before omicron spread in the United States.

## [Why yearly TB testing of health care workers is a waste](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
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January 2022—The United States and the rest of the world can expect to see an uptick in active tuberculosis cases brought about by impaired access to care and delays in diagnosis and treatment during the pandemic, says Wendy Thanassi, MD, MA.

## **What influences med students to choose pathology?**

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January 2022—It's not curriculum. It's visibility. That's the upshot of two companion studies on what influences U.S. medical students to choose pathology as a specialty, say Cindy B. McCloskey, MD, chair of the CAP's Graduate Medical Education Committee, and Melissa R. George, DO, a member of the committee. Their study of allopathic medical students was published in 2020, and their latest study, of osteopathic medical students, has been submitted for publication.

## **AMP case report: Rhinoscleroma in Southern California—diagnosis made by multidisciplinary investigation**

written by CAP TODAY  
January 19, 2022

January 2022—A 33-year-old male with progressive hoarseness and shortness of breath was given a purported diagnosis of laryngeal papillomatosis and referred to our institution in November 2020 for a higher level of care. On presentation, the patient reported no recent upper respiratory infection-like

systemic symptoms but had cough, nasal congestion, throat discomfort, dysphonia, and worsening dyspnea.



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## [Cytopathology in focus: Special stains in the cytology laboratory](#)

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January 2022—A consistent virtue of the cytopathology laboratory is that it combines two qualities essential to patient care: It provides an accurate *and* timely diagnosis. The ability to make a prompt diagnosis is particularly important in immunosuppressed or otherwise vulnerable patient populations for whom a timely diagnosis can result in early treatment initiation and potentially better outcomes.



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## [Cytopathology in focus: p16 immunostaining in cytology specimens—a diagnostic pitfall](#)

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January 2022—Cytopathologists are often the first pathologists to diagnose HPV-related head and neck squamous cell carcinomas (HNSCC). These head and neck cancers can present as superficial masses

amenable to fine-needle aspiration, where p16 immunostaining is used as a surrogate marker for HPV in situ hybridization in a subset of squamous cell carcinomas.



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