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Urine Tuberculosis Test

Lipoarabinomannan (LAM) is a component of the cell wall shed by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Tests based on the detection of LAM in urine have emerged as potential point-of-care tests for TB. Urine-based testing would have advantages over sputum-based testing because urine is easy to collect and store, and lacks the infection control risks associated with sputum collection.¹

Earlier the test methods were able to detect LAM only in the urine of patients who were HIV positive and had active tuberculosis. But, researchers have been able to develop [newer method that can detect LAM in urine of patients who are negative for HIV test](#) as well.²

This new test will hopefully be available in India soon.

1. The use of lateral flow urine lipoarabinomannan assay (LF-LAM) for the diagnosis and screening of active tuberculosis in people living with HIV; Policy Update by WHO; Accessible at <https://www.who.int/tb/publications/use-of-lf-lam-tb-hiv/en/>
2. Urine lipoarabinomannan glycan in HIV-negative patients with pulmonary tuberculosis correlates with disease severity; <https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/9/420/eaal2807>