Malaria Diagnostic Device

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Technology description

Market Opportunity

Malaria is one of the most severe public health problems in the world. It is the leading cause of death in many developing countries. Currently, the gold standard for malaria diagnosis is light microscopy (LM). However, this method of diagnosis requires quality reagents and equipment along with a skilled laboratory technician, all of which can be hard to find in developing countries afflicted with malaria. One alternative is an antigen-based rapid diagnostic test (RDT), however these tests are inaccurate, and difficult to store given their sensitivity to heat and humidity. Furthermore, these single use tests become expensive given the large scale of diagnosis needed. Therefore there is a need for a simple, cheap, yet effective malaria diagnosis device.

USC Solution

USC researchers have developed a device for diagnosis of malaria. This diagnostic device is based on light absorption of a byproduct of a malaria infection. This device is cheaper and easier to use than LM and vastly more accurate than RDT.

Application area

Malaria diagnosis

Advantages

Accurate malaria diagnosis
Easy to use
Available for repeated use

Institution

University of Southern California

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