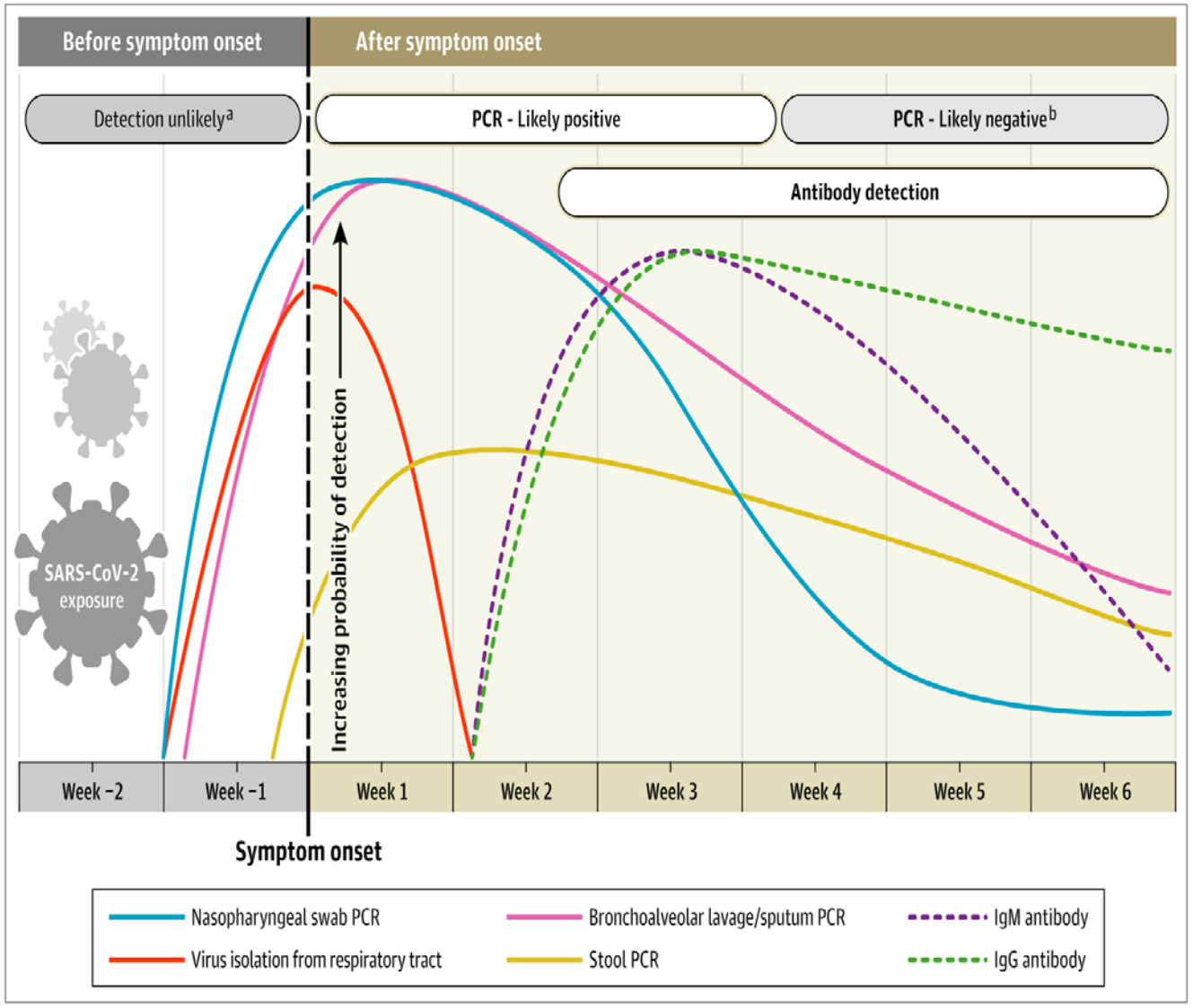
Interpreting Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2

Interpreting Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2 by Nandini Sethuraman (JAMA) 2020

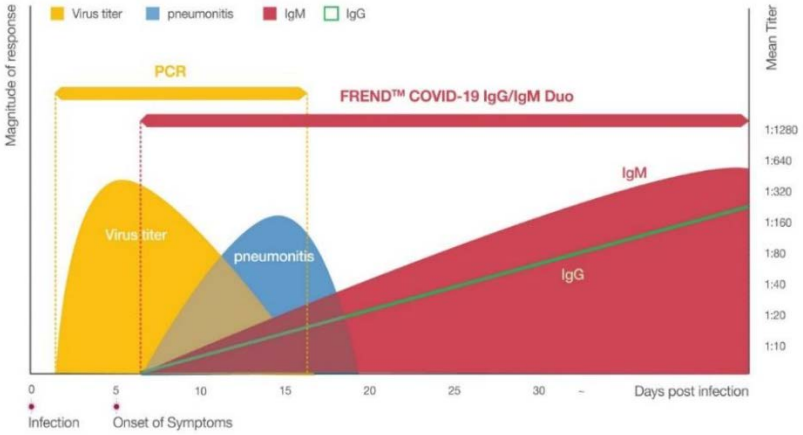
Estimated Variation Over Time in Diagnostic Tests for Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Relative to Symptom Onset. Estimated time intervals and rates of viral detection are based on data from several published reports. Because of variability in values among studies, estimated time intervals should be considered approximations and the probability of detection of SARS-CoV-2 infection is presented qualitatively. SARS-CoV-2 indicates severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; PCR, polymerase chain reaction.

[a] Detection only occurs if patients are followed up proactively from the time of exposure.

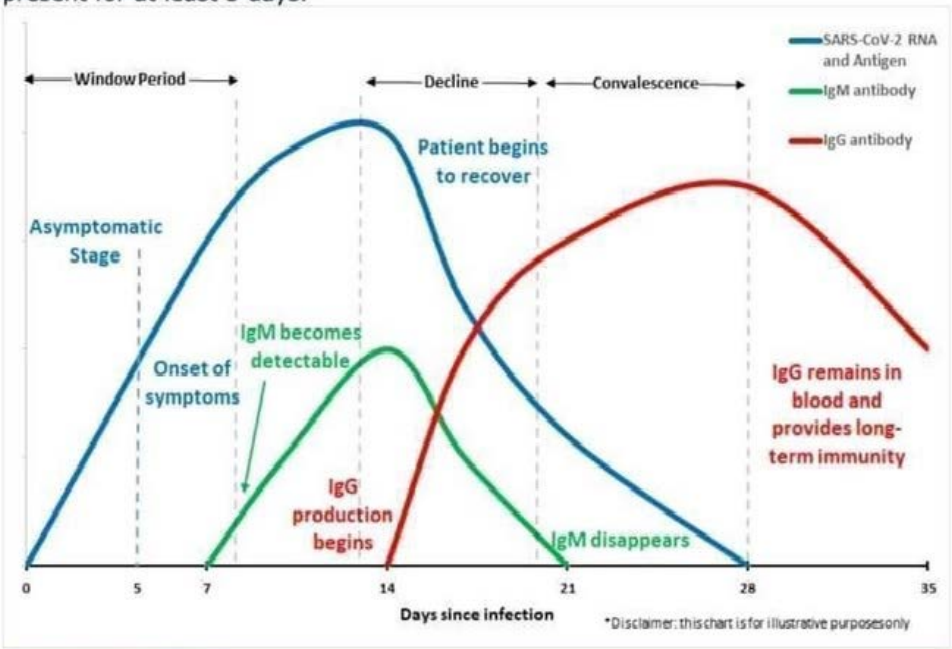
[b] More likely to register a negative than a positive result by PCR of a nasopharyngeal swab.

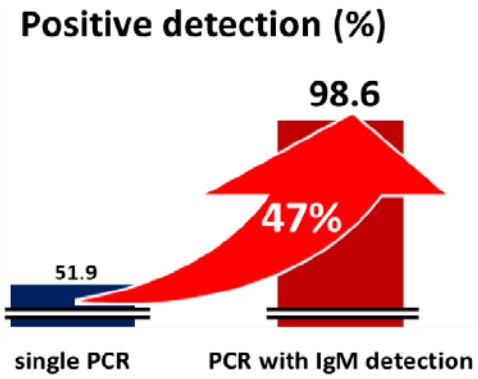


Diagnostic Test -Interpretations



Therefore, this COVID-19 Rapid Test should not be used until symptoms have been present for at least 3 days.





Test results			Clinical Significance
PCR	IgM	IgG	
+	–	–	Patient may be in the window period of infection.
+	+	–	Patient may be in the early stage of infection.
+	+	+	Patient is in the active phase of infection.
+	–	+	Patient may be in the late or recurrent stage of infection.
–	+	–	Patient may be in the early stage of infection. PCR result may be false-negative.
–	–	+	Patient may have had a past infection, and has recovered.