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leptoscan2

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Leptospirosis is caused by the bacterium, *Leptospira*, which is carried in the kidneys of rats and certain livestock species. The bacteria multiply in the kidneys and are excreted through urine to contaminate the environment. The disease has emerged as serious outbreaks and often caused mortalities in humans. It has often been misdiagnosed as influenza, dengue and even malaria as the clinical signs are not specific. There is, therefore, a need for a simple and rapid diagnostic kit to detect the disease particularly in the acute stage where affected patients might succumb to the

disease. LeptoScan2 is a novel diagnostic kit, in that, it is able to detect the acute infection. It is based on the detection of the leptospires or their LipL21 proteins, which are abundant in blood during the acute phase. LeptoScan2 is simple and rapid and can be utilized even in the field. Upon diagnosis, the patient needs to be given intensive antibiotic treatment and other supporting healthcare. LeptoScan2 is available now and this is good news to people who might get exposed to this bacterium in the leptospirosis prone areas, either through their occupation or recreational activities.