progress from the initial focal unilateral to diffuse

bilateral ground-glass opacities and will further

progress to or coexist with lung consolidation

changes within 1 to 3 weeks (159). The role played

by radiologists in the current scenario is very

important. Radiologists can help in the early

diagnosis of lung abnormalities associated with

COVID-19 pneumonia. They can also help in the

evaluation of disease severity, identifying its

progression to acute respiratory distress syndrome

and the presence of secondary bacterial infections

(160). Even though chest CT is considered an

essential diagnostic tool for COVID-19, the

extensive use of CT for screening purposes in the

suspected individuals might be associated with a

disproportionate risk-benefit ratio due to increased

radiation exposure as well as increased risk of cross-

infection. Hence, the use of CT for early diagnosis of

SARS-CoV-2 infection in high-risk groups should be

done with great caution (292).

More recently, other advanced diagnostics have

been designed and developed for the detection of

SARS-CoV-2 (345, 347, 350-352). A reverse

transcriptional loop-mediated isothermal

amplification (RT-LAMP), namely, iLACO, has been

developed for rapid and colorimetric detection of this