

**Respiratory Virus Detection with FilmArray Respiratory Panel Compared to  
Conventional Methods in Immunocompromised Patients**

**Authors:** Sarah P. Hammond,<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup> Lisa S. Gagne,<sup>1</sup> Shannon R. Stock,<sup>2</sup> Francisco M.  
Marty,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Rebecca S. Gelman,<sup>2,3</sup> Wayne A. Marasco,<sup>2,3</sup> Mark A. Poritz,<sup>4</sup> Lindsey R.  
Baden<sup>1,2,3</sup>

**Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital; <sup>2</sup>Dana-  
Farber Cancer Institute; <sup>3</sup>Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA;  
and <sup>4</sup>Idaho Technology, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

**Running Title:** Respiratory Virus Detection in Compromised Patients

**\* Corresponding Author:**

Dr. Sarah P. Hammond  
Division of Infectious Diseases  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
75 Francis St., PBB-A4  
Boston, MA 02115  
Phone: 617-525-8418  
FAX: 617-732-6829  
Email: [shammond2@partners.org](mailto:shammond2@partners.org)

**Word Count**

Abstract: 181

Text: 3713

Figures: 1

Tables: 6

This manuscript contains information on assays and/or samples types that have not  
been approved by the FDA for In Vitro Diagnostic use. Idaho Technology does not  
promote these products for In Vitro Diagnostic use.

30 **Abstract**

31 Respiratory virus infections cause significant morbidity and mortality in  
32 immunocompromised patients. Timely diagnosis is needed to provide optimal clinical  
33 care. Diagnostic tests routinely available at most institutions are limited by poor  
34 sensitivity and slow turnaround time. We collected 90 respiratory samples from 87  
35 immunocompromised patients (56 bronchoalveolar lavage and 34 nasopharyngeal  
36 aspirate samples) in order to compare the performance of routine respiratory virus testing  
37 available at our institution to the FilmArray® respiratory panel assay, a novel diagnostic  
38 tool which utilizes multiplex PCR to test for 21 respiratory pathogens with a one hour  
39 turnaround time. Samples with discordant results and 13 samples with concordant results  
40 underwent further verification testing by laboratory-developed real-time PCR. The  
41 FilmArray assay identified viral pathogens in more samples than clinical testing (30/90  
42 vs. 16/90, McNemar  $P=0.001$ ). Most of the additional viral pathogens identified by the  
43 FilmArray respiratory panel assay that were confirmed by verification testing were  
44 pathogens not assessed by routine clinical tests, including rhinovirus/enterovirus, human  
45 metapneumovirus, and coronavirus. The FilmArray respiratory panel assay allowed for  
46 increased identification of respiratory viral pathogens in this cohort of  
47 immunocompromised patients.

48    **Introduction**

49    Patients with hematologic malignancy and recipients of stem-cell and solid organ  
50    transplants are at significant risk for severe illness due to viral respiratory tract infection  
51    (1, 5). While infection with an upper respiratory tract virus such as rhinovirus or  
52    parainfluenza virus typically results in a self-limited illness in a normal host, this type of  
53    infection can result in significant morbidity and mortality in an immunocompromised  
54    host. The severity of illness in this population is typically attributed to the frequent  
55    development of secondary infection with bacteria, fungi or other viruses and also to the  
56    spread of the virus to involve the lower respiratory tract (1, 3-6).

57

58    In order to provide optimal patient care, rapid and accurate diagnosis of viral respiratory  
59    pathogens is needed for immunocompromised patients. Though there are several  
60    respiratory viruses that can cause significant illness in this population, the symptoms of  
61    different viral respiratory tract infections are similar and do not help distinguish the  
62    specific pathogen, thus patients in whom viral respiratory tract infection is suspected  
63    need to be tested for a battery of pathogens (1, 5). Rapid and accurate identification of  
64    the specific viral pathogen(s) causing illness allows for targeted therapy where treatments  
65    exist, timely institution of appropriate infection control measures, appropriate monitoring  
66    for secondary infections, and minimization of empiric treatment for possible concerning  
67    alternative conditions. Furthermore, while there are no FDA-approved treatments for  
68    many respiratory viruses such as parainfluenza or rhinovirus, accurate identification of  
69    these viruses will allow for a better understanding of the need for and development of  
70    investigational treatment options (2).

71  
72 Until recently, the primary diagnostic tools for respiratory viruses included direct  
73 fluorescent antibody (DFA) assays, enzyme immunoassays, and viral culture. While  
74 DFA assays and enzyme immunoassays have a rapid turnaround time, sensitivity is  
75 limited. Viral culture is more sensitive but requires several days of incubation before  
76 results are available. More recently PCR-based tests and specifically multiplex PCR  
77 assays for respiratory viruses have greatly improved respiratory viral diagnostics,  
78 particularly in the immunocompromised population (7, 9, 10, 12, 14). However, the  
79 technical complexity of PCR-based testing has limited its usefulness. The FilmArray  
80 Respiratory Panel (RP) is a multiplexed, fully-automated PCR assay, which is capable of  
81 detecting 18 viral respiratory pathogens and three atypical bacterial pathogens with a  
82 turn-around time of approximately 1 hour (12). The performance of this assay in the  
83 general adult and pediatric populations in comparison to DFA, other multiplex PCR-  
84 based assays, and laboratory-based PCR assays has been described (8, 11-13). The goals  
85 of the present study are to characterize the performance of the FilmArray RP assay on  
86 bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and nasopharyngeal aspirate (NPA) samples in the  
87 immunocompromised host population in comparison to the standard clinical testing for  
88 respiratory viruses.

89

## 90 **Materials and Methods**

91 *Patients and samples.* The study population included 87 adult patients with hematologic  
92 malignancy or recipients of hematopoietic stem-cell transplant (HSCT) or solid organ  
93 transplant (SOT) who underwent testing for viral respiratory pathogens for any clinical

94 indication at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women's Hospital (DFCI/  
95 BWH) between November 2009 and September 2010. The clinical indications for testing  
96 included symptoms of an upper respiratory tract infection (URI), lower respiratory tract  
97 infection (LRI), or for surveillance of other infectious or non-infectious conditions.

98

99 Study samples were collected consecutively Monday through Friday on those BAL or  
100 NPA samples (collected from transplant recipients or patients with hematologic  
101 malignancy) from which there was fluid remaining after all aliquots necessary for  
102 clinically indicated tests were obtained. Three of the 87 patients each contributed two  
103 samples that were collected at least 1 month apart for new clinical indications, for a total  
104 of 90 samples. Fluid samples were diluted 3:1 with M4 viral transport media, aliquoted,  
105 and stored at -80°C until study testing with a research version of the FilmArray RP assay  
106 (Idaho Technology, Inc, Salt Lake City, UT) or individual PCR testing for verification  
107 was carried out. Both FilmArray and verification PCR testing were performed  
108 retrospectively such that the results had no impact on clinical decision-making.

109

110 Electronic medical records were reviewed for clinical details of patients who contributed  
111 respiratory samples including gender, age, underlying malignancy, type of transplant, and  
112 the reason for the respiratory virus testing. This study was approved by the Office of  
113 Human Research Services at DFCI/BWH.

114

115 *Clinical testing.* All study BAL and NPA samples were tested for one or more  
116 respiratory viruses based on clinical indications determined by the patient's clinical

117 providers. During the study period the following DFA respiratory virus tests were  
118 available at DFCI/BWH: Influenza A and B (Millipore, Billerica, MA), adenovirus  
119 (Millipore, Billerica, MA), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Millipore, Billerica, MA  
120 and Trinity Biotech USA Inc, Jamestown, NY), and Parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3 (Diagnostic  
121 Hybrids, Athens, OH). Additionally, for BAL samples only, culture for adenovirus and  
122 multiplex PCR for Influenza A, Influenza B, and RSV (Prodesse, Gen-Probe  
123 Incorporated, San Diego, CA) were also available. Twelve BAL samples were also sent  
124 to a reference lab for human metapneumovirus (HMPV) DFA (Focus Diagnostics,  
125 Cypress, CA) based on clinical provider orders.

126

127 *FilmArray testing.* Patient samples were retrospectively tested at DFCI/BWH for  
128 respiratory pathogens with a pre-market version of the FilmArray RP panel which  
129 included testing for the following pathogens: influenza A (H1N1, H1N1 2009, H3N2),  
130 influenza B, RSV, parainfluenza 1-4, adenovirus, rhinovirus/enterovirus (the assay does  
131 not distinguish between these two pathogens), HMPV, coronavirus (229E, HKU1, OC43,  
132 NL63), bocavirus, *M. pneumoniae*, *C. pneumoniae*, and *B. pertussis*. The FilmArray  
133 instrument and pouch system have been described in detail elsewhere (11-13). The  
134 research use only version of the FilmArray RP system reported a cycle threshold for each  
135 positive PCR assay.

136

137 *Verification PCR testing.* Study samples for which clinical respiratory virus testing and  
138 FilmArray RP assay results were discordant, as well as one sample for which FilmArray  
139 and clinical testing were concordant and identified parainfluenza 3, and 12 samples

140 which were negative by both methods, underwent further verification testing at Idaho  
141 Technology using validated real time singleplex PCR assays. The 12 samples which were  
142 negative by both methods were randomly selected from all samples which were negative  
143 by FilmArray and clinical testing and that had more than one remaining sample aliquot.  
144  
145 Three separate sample preparation methods were used for verification testing including a  
146 DNA preparation to assess for Bocavirus, *B. pertussis*, *C. pneumonia*, and *M. pneumonia*;  
147 a standard RNA preparation to assess for multiple pathogens including Coronaviruses  
148 (229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43), Enterovirus, HMPV, Influenza A (H1, H1N1 2009, H3),  
149 PIV4, and Rhinovirus; and a separate standard RNA preparation to assess for RSV.  
150 Three samples underwent verification testing using the DNA preparation (including two  
151 that were negative for pathogens by both clinical testing and the FilmArray RP assay and  
152 one that was positive for Bocavirus only by the FilmArray RP assay). Twenty-four  
153 samples underwent verification testing using the standard RNA preparation for multiple  
154 pathogens (including seven samples that were negative for pathogens by both clinical  
155 testing and the FilmArray RP assay, 14 samples that had discordant results by the two  
156 testing methods, and one sample that was positive for parainfluenza 3 by both methods).  
157 Six samples underwent verification testing using the standard RNA preparation for RSV  
158 (including three samples that were negative for pathogens by both clinical testing and the  
159 FilmArray RP assay, two samples that had discordant results by the two testing methods  
160 for RSV, and one sample that tested positive for RSV by clinical testing and RSV and  
161 coronavirus by the FilmArray RP assay).

162 The assays used a different chemistry (real-time, singleplex PCR with hydrolysis probes)  
163 and targeted different sequences for each virus and bacterium than the assay(s) in the  
164 FilmArray (12). The targets for each organism, their primer and probe sequences as well  
165 as the Limit of Detection<sub>95</sub> (LoD<sub>95</sub> concentrations of organism or nucleic acid at which  
166 95% of the samples are positive) are shown in Supplementary Table 1. Inclusivity and  
167 exclusivity testing used essentially the same organisms as were tested on the FilmArray  
168 Respiratory panel (FilmArray Respiratory Panel Instruction booklet, available upon  
169 request). The comparator assays distinguish between enterovirus and human rhinovirus  
170 but this information was not used in the comparison with the FilmArray RP assay results  
171 which report only a combined result.

172

173 The QIAcube (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) was used to purify nucleic acid for the PCR or  
174 reverse transcription PCR reactions. For the DNA purification 500µl of sample was  
175 loaded into the instrument and 200µl recovered. For the RNA purifications, 140µl was  
176 loaded and 100ul recovered. 10µl of purified nucleic acid was used in each 20µl  
177 singleplex PCR reaction. Verification testing at Idaho Technology was performed on  
178 coded samples without knowledge of either the clinical testing or the FilmArray RP assay  
179 results.

180

181 *Resolution of concordant and discordant results.*

182 Patients were considered infected with a specific respiratory virus if results from clinical  
183 testing were positive and matched the FilmArray RP results. Patients were considered  
184 not to be infected if the clinical testing and FilmArray RP testing both yielded negative



185 results. In cases where clinical test results did not match FilmArray RP results, if  
186 verification testing was concordant with the positive clinical test result or FilmArray RP  
187 result then the patient was also considered to be infected with the respiratory virus. In  
188 cases where the clinical testing result and the FilmArray RP result were discordant and  
189 confirmatory testing was negative the patient was considered not to be infected with a  
190 respiratory virus.

191

192 Because verification testing was primarily used in cases where the clinical testing and  
193 FilmArray RP testing results were discordant, because both the FilmArray RP and  
194 verification panel tested for more pathogens than clinical testing, and because not all  
195 pathogens tested have a “gold standard” test, true positive and negative predictive values  
196 could not be estimated. However, patients were designated as having a respiratory viral  
197 disease or not (as described above) in order to tabulate a calculated positive predictive  
198 value (cPPV) and calculated negative predictive value (cNPV) for the standard clinical  
199 testing available at DFCI/BWH and the FilmArray RP assay. The samples that had  
200 concordant positive results for clinical testing and FilmArray RP did not have verification  
201 assays and may have had false positive results on both assays, so each of the cPPVs may  
202 be optimistic. Among the samples that had concordant negative results for clinical  
203 testing and FilmArray RP which did not have verification testing there may have been  
204 some samples that had false negative results, so each of the cNPVs may be optimistic.

205

206 *Statistical analysis*

207 Clinical testing and the FilmArray RP assay were compared by the exact two-sided  
208 McNemar's test. The cPPV and cNPV (as defined above) and their corresponding exact  
209 95% binomial confidence intervals were calculated separately for clinical testing and  
210 FilmArray RP testing. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS version 9.2  
211 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

212

## 213 **Results**

214 Ninety samples were obtained from 87 immunocompromised patients who were  
215 undergoing respiratory viral testing for clinical indications. Patient characteristics are  
216 shown in Table 1. Nearly half (48%) of the patients were HSCT recipients and one third  
217 (34%) were SOT recipients; the remainder had hematologic malignancy but had not  
218 undergone HSCT. Sample characteristics are shown in Table 2. The majority of samples  
219 were obtained for URI or LRI symptoms and a minority for surveillance. The majority of  
220 NPA samples were collected for URI or LRI symptoms (only one of 34 was collected for  
221 surveillance), while the majority of BAL samples were collected for LRI symptoms but  
222 with a significant number collected for surveillance (19 of 56).

223

224 The FilmArray RP assay was significantly more likely to detect a respiratory virus than  
225 routine clinical testing at DFCI/BWH. Among 90 samples, the FilmArray RP assay  
226 identified 30 with viral pathogens (including 2 samples in which 2 pathogens were  
227 detected). In contrast, routine testing at DFCI/BWH identified 16 samples with one viral  
228 pathogen each among the 90 samples. Detailed results are shown graphically in Figure 1  
229 and in Tables 3 and 4. Among the 19 samples on which the two assays disagreed, the

230 FilmArray RP assay identified a viral pathogen in 16 when the clinical testing was  
231 negative or different and the clinical testing identified a viral pathogen in 2 when the  
232 FilmArray RP assay was negative. (McNemar  $P = 0.001$ ). If only verified positive results  
233 were counted, there were 13 samples with discordant results and all had verification of  
234 the FilmArray RP result (McNemar  $P = 0.0002$ ). When FilmArray RP assay results for  
235 viruses that could not be detected by clinical testing (coronavirus, rhinovirus/enterovirus,  
236 parainfluenza 4, and bocavirus) were excluded from analysis, there was no significant  
237 difference in the performance of the FilmArray RP assay in comparison to clinical testing  
238 ( $P = 0.51$ ). No bacterial infections with *B. pertussis*, *C. pneumonia*, or *M. pneumonia*  
239 were identified by either routine clinical testing (in cases where specific testing was  
240 pursued) or by the FilmArray RP assay in any of the samples.

241

242 Three patients had two separate samples collected for different clinical indications  
243 (different respiratory tract infection symptoms in each case). Two of these patients each  
244 had one NPA and one BAL sample each collected more than a month apart with negative  
245 clinical testing and negative FilmArray RP assay results for both samples for both  
246 patients. The third patient had two NPA samples collected three months apart for  
247 different episodes of illness. The first sample tested positive for parainfluenza 1 by both  
248 clinical testing and the FilmArray RP assay and the second sample was negative for  
249 respiratory virus infection by clinical testing but was positive by FilmArray RP assay for  
250 bocavirus. When the second samples were excluded from analysis, the FilmArray RP  
251 assay still identified a viral pathogen significantly more often than clinical testing  
252 (McNemar  $P=0.002$ )

253

254 Verification testing was performed where results were discordant between the FilmArray  
255 RP and DFCI/BWH clinical testing (19 samples), on 1 sample with RSV identified by  
256 both assays and coronavirus identified only by FilmArrayRP, on one sample identified by  
257 both assays as parainfluenza 3, and on 12 concordant negative samples. Altogether 33  
258 samples (37%) underwent verification testing. Results of the verification testing are  
259 displayed in Tables 3 and 4. Based on these results, viral disease was considered present  
260 in 26 samples (29%) (Table 3) and absent in 64 samples (71%) (Table 4). Verification  
261 testing on the 12 samples which were negative on both FilmArray RP and DFCI/BWH  
262 clinical testing were all negative.

263

264 Among the 26 samples in which viral infection was considered present, 13 (50%) had a  
265 positive concordant result by both the FilmArray RP assay and clinically indicated testing  
266 (including the sample in which RSV and coronavirus were detected by FilmArray but  
267 only the RSV was present by clinical testing). The remaining 13 (50%) had a positive  
268 result on the FilmArray RP assay that was concordant with verification testing only (one  
269 of them had PIV3 identified by clinical testing and rhinovirus/enterovirus identified by  
270 FilmArray RP and verification assays). Other than 2 samples in which RSV was  
271 identified, the pathogens detected by FilmArray RP assay and verification testing  
272 included pathogens not routinely assessed for by clinically indicated testing including  
273 parainfluenza 4, rhinovirus/enterovirus, HMPV, and coronavirus.

274

275 Among the 64 samples in which viral infection was not considered present, 4 samples  
276 tested positive by the FilmArray RP assay for at least one virus, but had negative clinical  
277 testing and verification testing. These four samples included two that tested positive for  
278 rhinovirus/enterovirus, one that tested positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus and HMPV, and  
279 one that tested positive for bocavirus. The median cycle threshold for the viruses  
280 detected by FilmArray RP in these four samples was higher than the median cycle  
281 threshold for the other 27 viruses detected by FilmArray RP assay and confirmed by  
282 validation testing (26.5 vs. 12.6). Two samples tested positive by clinical testing for  
283 parainfluenza 2 and parainfluenza 3 but had negative FilmArray RP assay results.  
284 Because the verification testing panels did not include parainfluenza 2 and parainfluenza  
285 3 this discrepancy could not be resolved.  
286  
287 The cPPV and cNPV of the FilmArray RP assay and clinical testing to detect a  
288 respiratory viral infection are displayed in Table 5. The two samples that tested positive  
289 for parainfluenza by clinical testing and negative by the FilmArray RP assay which did  
290 not undergo verification testing for the pathogens detected were excluded from this  
291 analysis since the discrepancy could not be resolved. In this context, the overall cPPV of  
292 DFCI/BWH clinical testing (1.00) was greater than that of the FilmArray RP (0.87),  
293 while the cNPV of the FilmArray (1.00) was greater than that of the DFCI/BWH clinical  
294 testing (0.84). Because the indication for collection of BAL samples differed from NPA  
295 in that some BAL samples were collected for surveillance while NPA samples were  
296 mostly collected for symptoms, the cPPV and cNPV were also calculated for BAL and  
297 NPA samples individually. Among both BAL and NPA samples, the cPPV for clinical

298 testing was greater than for the FilmArray (BAL 1.00 vs. 0.90, NPA 1.00 vs. 0.85) while  
299 the cNPV for the FilmArray remained greater than for clinical testing (BAL 1.00 vs. 0.90,  
300 NPA 1.00 vs. 0.71). The low cPPV of the FilmArray RP assay can be attributed to the  
301 four samples described above that tested positive by the FilmArray RP assay but were not  
302 confirmed by validation testing (including two samples that tested positive for  
303 rhinovirus/enterovirus, one sample that tested positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus and  
304 HMPV, and one sample that tested positive for bocavirus). The cPPV and cNPV of the  
305 FilmArray RP assay and clinical testing overall and for NPA and BAL samples  
306 specifically did not change much when only the first samples obtained from each patient  
307 in the cohort were considered.

308

### 309 **Discussion**

310 These data demonstrate that in immunocompromised patients the FilmArray RP assay  
311 identified significantly more viral pathogens in BAL and NPA samples than the standard  
312 clinical testing available during the study period at our institution. Predictably, the  
313 majority of additional pathogens identified by the FilmArray RP assay included those not  
314 available by routine testing at DFCI/BWH (rhinovirus/enterovirus, coronavirus,  
315 bocavirus) and those that were only available through a reference lab testing (HMPV)  
316 which is seldom utilized due to slow turnaround time. The performance of the  
317 FilmArray RP assay in this patient population was similar to that reported previously in a  
318 general adult and pediatric patient population in which approximately 50% more viral  
319 pathogens were identified by FilmArray in comparison to traditional clinical methods, the  
320 majority of which were due to viral pathogens not typically detected by traditional

321 methods (13). Both the wider array of pathogens tested for and the rapid turnaround  
322 time of the FilmArray RP assay in comparison to routine testing at DFCI/BWH would fill  
323 the need for rapid diagnoses in immunocompromised patients such as those included in  
324 this cohort.

325

326 This study assessed the performance of the FilmArray RP in both NPA and BAL samples  
327 and included the largest number of BAL samples in which the performance of the  
328 FilmArray RP has been studied to date (13). The majority of BAL samples in the present  
329 study were obtained for symptoms of LRI, though some samples were obtained for  
330 surveillance of other conditions such as rejection in lung transplant recipients. In this  
331 context in which the overall number of BAL samples with any respiratory viruses  
332 detected was relatively low (9/56, 16%), the cNPV of the FilmArray RP panel on BAL  
333 samples were higher than those of routinely available clinical testing at DFCI/BWH  
334 while the cPPV was lower. In contrast, all NPA samples in the present study except one  
335 were collected from a symptomatic immunocompromised host, thus the overall number  
336 of samples with respiratory viruses present was relatively high (17/34, 50%). In this  
337 context, the cNPV of the FilmArray RP assay was also higher than clinical testing while  
338 the cPPV was lower than clinical testing. This low cPPV for the FilmArray RP assay for  
339 BAL and NPA samples was likely due to the detection of viral pathogens in one BAL  
340 sample and three NPA samples by the FilmArray RP assay that were not confirmed by  
341 validation testing.

342

343 Clinical testing identified parainfluenza virus in two samples that were not confirmed by  
344 FilmArray RP assay, including one sample with parainfluenza 2 and one sample with  
345 parainfluenza 3. Both samples were obtained by BAL in patients with symptoms of  
346 lower respiratory tract infection. Because only parainfluenza 4 was included in the  
347 verification testing panel utilized for the study, it is not clear if these two results reflect  
348 false positive clinical testing results or false negative FilmArray RP assay results and thus  
349 these samples were excluded from the cPPV and cNPV calculations.

350

351 The FilmArray RP assay identified viral pathogens in four samples (three NPA samples  
352 and one BAL sample) that were not confirmed either by clinically indicated testing or  
353 verification testing, including two samples with rhinovirus/enterovirus, one sample with  
354 rhinovirus/enterovirus and HMPV, and one sample with bocavirus. Though these results  
355 may be false positive FilmArray RP assay results, it is also possible that these viruses  
356 were indeed present in the samples but at a low enough quantity that they were not  
357 detected by verification testing. The median cycle threshold of these viruses on the  
358 FilmArray RP assay was much higher than that for viruses detected by FilmArray RP  
359 assay in other samples and confirmed by validation testing. This difference in median  
360 cycle threshold suggests that there may have been very small amounts of virus present in  
361 these samples, leading to false negative validation testing. This issue also highlights the  
362 difficulty with studying the performance of novel respiratory virus diagnostics where  
363 there is no gold standard test for many viral pathogens such as bocavirus.

364



365 In addition to the challenge presented by studying viral diagnostics for pathogens in  
366 which there is no diagnostic gold standard, this exploratory study was also limited by the  
367 relatively small number of samples and the lack of verification testing on all samples.  
368 The latter specifically limited our ability to estimate a true positive or negative predictive  
369 value, thus the cPPV and cNPV calculated with the available results are optimistic  
370 estimates.

371

372 In summary, in comparison to the routine clinical testing for respiratory viruses, the  
373 FilmArray RP assay detected more viral pathogens among samples obtained from an  
374 immunocompromised population. In addition, this assay system performed well on BAL  
375 samples. This study provides a practical real-world assessment of the performance of the  
376 FilmArray RP assay in a population in whom rapid and accurate diagnosis of viral  
377 pathogens is crucial for appropriate clinical management and development of novel  
378 therapeutics for respiratory viruses.

379

#### 380 **Acknowledgements**

381 MAP is employed by Idaho Technology, Inc. The other authors declare no competing  
382 financial interests. This work was supported by Small Business Innovation Research  
383 grant 1 R43 AI 082843-01 from the NIH/NIAID, by the Harvard Clinical and  
384 Translational Science Center, Grant Number 1 UL1 RR025758-01, from the NIH/NCRR,  
385 and also by the Harvard Center for AIDS Research, grant P30 AI060354-08 from the  
386 NIH/NIAID. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not  
387 necessarily represent the official views of the NIAID, NCRR, or the NIH.

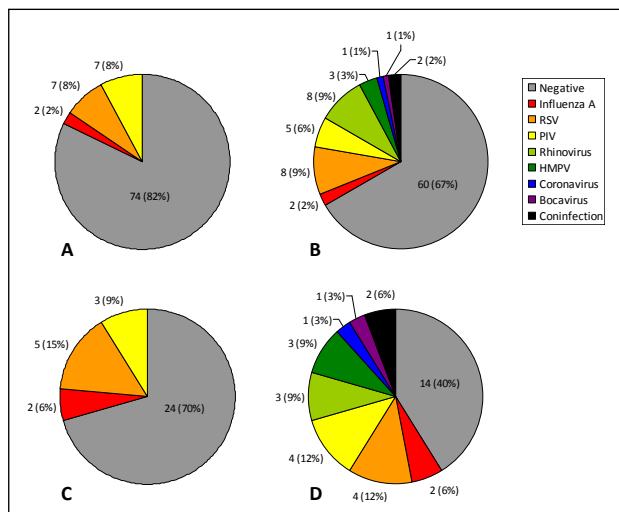
388

389 We would like to acknowledge Alex McAdam and Richard Rossi for assistance with  
390 sample collection, Kody Nilsson for technical assistance, and Sam Richards for directing  
391 the verification PCR work.

## 392 References

- 393
- 394 1. **Boeckh, M.** 2008. The challenge of respiratory virus infections in hematopoietic  
395 cell transplant recipients. *Br J Haematol* **143**:455-67.
- 396 2. **Chen, Y. B., J. P. Driscoll, S. L. McAfee, T. R. Spitzer, E. S. Rosenberg, R.**  
397 **Sanders, R. B. Moss, F. Fang, and F. M. Marty.** 2011. Treatment of  
398 parainfluenza 3 infection with DAS181 in a patient after allogeneic stem cell  
399 transplantation. *Clin Infect Dis* **53**:e77-80.
- 400 3. **Englund, J. A., M. Boeckh, J. Kuypers, W. G. Nichols, R. C. Hackman, R. A.**  
401 **Morrow, D. N. Fredricks, and L. Corey.** 2006. Brief communication: fatal  
402 human metapneumovirus infection in stem-cell transplant recipients. *Ann Intern*  
403 *Med* **144**:344-9.
- 404 4. **Gutman, J. A., A. J. Peck, J. Kuypers, and M. Boeckh.** 2007. Rhinovirus as a  
405 cause of fatal lower respiratory tract infection in adult stem cell transplantation  
406 patients: a report of two cases. *Bone Marrow Transplant* **40**:809-11.
- 407 5. **Ison, M. G., and M. G. Michaels.** 2009. RNA respiratory viral infections in solid  
408 organ transplant recipients. *Am J Transplant* **9 Suppl 4**:S166-72.
- 409 6. **Kamboj, M., M. Gerbin, C. K. Huang, C. Brennan, J. Stiles, S. Balashov, S.**  
410 **Park, T. E. Kiehn, D. S. Perlin, E. G. Pamer, and K. A. Sepkowitz.** 2008.  
411 Clinical characterization of human metapneumovirus infection among patients  
412 with cancer. *J Infect* **57**:464-71.
- 413 7. **Kuypers, J., A. P. Campbell, A. Cent, L. Corey, and M. Boeckh.** 2009.  
414 Comparison of conventional and molecular detection of respiratory viruses in  
415 hematopoietic cell transplant recipients. *Transpl Infect Dis* **11**:298-303.
- 416 8. **Loeffelholz, M. J., D. L. Pong, R. B. Pyles, Y. Xiong, A. L. Miller, K. K.**  
417 **Buften, and T. Chonmaitree.** 2011. Comparison of the FilmArray Respiratory  
418 Panel and Prodesse Real-Time PCR Assays for Detection of Respiratory  
419 Pathogens. *J Clin Microbiol* **49**:4083-8.
- 420 9. **Murali, S., A. A. Langston, F. S. Nolte, G. Banks, R. Martin, and A. M.**  
421 **Caliendo.** 2009. Detection of respiratory viruses with a multiplex polymerase  
422 chain reaction assay (MultiCode-PLx Respiratory Virus Panel) in patients with  
423 hematologic malignancies. *Leuk Lymphoma* **50**:619-24.
- 424 10. **Peck, A. J., J. A. Englund, J. Kuypers, K. A. Guthrie, L. Corey, R. Morrow,**  
425 **R. C. Hackman, A. Cent, and M. Boeckh.** 2007. Respiratory virus infection  
426 among hematopoietic cell transplant recipients: evidence for asymptomatic  
427 parainfluenza virus infection. *Blood* **110**:1681-8.
- 428 11. **Pierce, V. M., M. Elkan, M. Leet, K. L. McGowan, and R. L. Hodinka.** 2012.  
429 Comparison of the Idaho Technology FilmArray System to Real-Time PCR for  
430 Detection of Respiratory Pathogens in Children. *J Clin Microbiol*.
- 431 12. **Poritz, M. A., A. J. Blaschke, C. L. Byington, L. Meyers, K. Nilsson, D. E.**  
432 **Jones, S. A. Thatcher, T. Robbins, B. Lingenfelter, E. Amriott, A. Herbener,**  
433 **J. Daly, S. F. Dobrowolski, D. H. Teng, and K. M. Ririe.** 2011. FilmArray, an  
434 automated nested multiplex PCR system for multi-pathogen detection:  
435 development and application to respiratory tract infection. *PLoS One* **6**:e26047.

- 436 13. **Rand, K. H., H. Rammersaud, and H. J. Houck.** 2011. Comparison of two  
437 multiplex methods for detection of respiratory viruses: FilmArray RP and xTAG  
438 RVP. *J Clin Microbiol* **49**:2449-53.
- 439 14. **Weinberg, A., M. R. Zamora, S. Li, F. Torres, and T. N. Hodges.** 2002. The  
440 value of polymerase chain reaction for the diagnosis of viral respiratory tract  
441 infections in lung transplant recipients. *J Clin Virol* **25**:171-5.  
442  
443



**Figure 1:** Respiratory virus testing results for tests routinely available at DFCI/BWH and FilmArray RP panel including the number of pathogens and percent of total. (A) Results for routine testing at DFCI/BWH for all samples (90). (B) Results for FilmArray RP assay for all samples (90). Coinfection includes one sample with RSV and Coronavirus and another with HMPV and rhinovirus. (C) Results for routine testing at DFCI/BWH for NPA samples (34). (D) Results for FilmArray RP assay for NPA samples (34). Coinfection includes one sample with RSV and Coronavirus and another with HMPV and rhinovirus.

**Table 1:** Baseline characteristics of 87 patients from whom respiratory samples were collected

<b>Patient Characteristic</b>	<b>Number (percent)</b> N = 87
<b>Median Age, years (range)</b>	55 (19,80)
<b>Male Gender</b>	53 (61)
<b>Underlying condition<sup>a</sup></b>	
SOT <sup>b</sup>	30 (34)
HSCT	42 (48)
Hematologic malignancy <sup>c</sup>	56 (64)
<b>Type of hematologic malignancy<sup>c</sup></b>	
Acute leukemia or myelodysplastic syndrome	24 (43)
Chronic leukemia	10 (18)
Lymphoma	18 (32)
Multiple myeloma	4 (7)

<sup>a</sup> SOT, solid organ transplant; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

<sup>b</sup> Includes 28 lung transplant recipients, 1 kidney transplant recipient, and 1 combined heart and kidney transplant recipient.

<sup>c</sup> Includes 15 patients with hematologic malignancy alone, 40 HSCT recipients who underwent transplantation for hematologic malignancy, and one SOT recipient with hematologic malignancy.

**Table 2:** Clinical characteristics of the 90 respiratory samples collected for clinical indications<sup>a</sup>

Sample Characteristic	Number (percent)
N = 90	
<b>Type of sample<sup>b</sup></b>	
NPA	34 (38)
BAL	56 (62)
<b>Clinical indication for test<sup>c</sup></b>	
URI	28 (31)
LRI	42 (47)
Surveillance	20 (22)

<sup>a</sup> Samples obtained from 87 patients, of whom three had two respiratory samples taken at least 1 month apart for different clinical indications

<sup>b</sup> NPA, nasopharyngeal aspirate; BAL, bronchoalveolar lavage

<sup>c</sup> URI, upper respiratory tract infection; LRI, lower respiratory tract infection

**Table 3:** Results from clinically indicated testing<sup>a</sup>, FilmArray RP testing, and verification testing for samples where a respiratory viral disease was considered present based on concordance between two or more testing methods

Number of samples N = 26	Clinical results <sup>b</sup>	FilmArray RP results <sup>c</sup>	Verification results
2	Influenza A	Influenza A H1-09	---
6	RSV	RSV	---
2	Negative	RSV	RSV
1	RSV	RSV, Coronavirus OC43 <sup>d</sup>	RSV <sup>d</sup>
1	PIV 1	PIV 1	---
1	PIV 2	PIV 2	---
2	PIV 3	PIV 3 <sup>e</sup>	---
1	Negative	PIV 4	PIV 4
1	PIV 3	Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
5	Negative	Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
3	Negative	HMPV	HMPV
1	Negative	Coronavirus NL63	Coronavirus NL63

<sup>a</sup> Including samples collected for clinical symptoms and for surveillance

<sup>b</sup> RSV, respiratory syncytial virus; PIV, parainfluenza.

<sup>c</sup> HMPV, human metapneumovirus.

<sup>d</sup> Verification testing for Coronavirus OC43 was not performed on this sample, so only RSV infection was confirmed

<sup>e</sup> Verification testing for other viruses including: coronaviruses (229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43), enterovirus, HMPV, influenza A (H1, H1N1 2009, H3), PIV4, and rhinovirus was performed on one of these two samples and was negative



**Table 4:** Results from clinically indicated testing<sup>a</sup>, FilmArray RP testing, and verification testing for samples where respiratory viral disease was not confirmed

Number of samples N = 64	Clinical results <sup>b</sup>	FilmArray RP results <sup>c</sup>	Verification results
58	Negative	Negative	--- <sup>d</sup>
1	PIV 2	Negative	--- <sup>e</sup>
1	PIV 3	Negative	--- <sup>e</sup>
2	Negative	Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	Negative
1	Negative	HMPV; Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	Negative
1	Negative	Bocavirus	Negative

<sup>a</sup> Including samples collected for clinical symptoms and for surveillance.

<sup>b</sup> PIV, parainfluenza.

<sup>c</sup> HMPV, human metapneumovirus.

<sup>d</sup> 12 samples which were negative for respiratory pathogens by the DFCI/BWH clinical testing and the FilmArray RP assay underwent verification testing. All 12 samples were negative for viral pathogens by verification testing.

<sup>e</sup> Verification testing for PIV2 or PIV3 was not performed but the sample did undergo verification testing for other viruses (coronaviruses (229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43), enterovirus, HMPV, influenza A (H1, H1N1 2009, H3), PIV4, and rhinovirus) which was negative

**Table 5:** Estimated positive and negative predictive values for FilmArray RP and DFCI/BWH clinically indicated testing

Sample Type <sup>a</sup>	Test <sup>b</sup>	Calculated Positive Predictive Value (CI) <sup>c</sup>	Calculated Negative Predictive Value (CI) <sup>c</sup>
All <sup>d</sup>	DFCI/BWH	1.00 (0.77, 1.00)	0.84 (0.73, 0.91)
	FilmArray RP	0.87 (0.69, 0.96)	1.00 (0.94, 1.00)
BAL <sup>d</sup>	DFCI/BWH	1.00 (0.40, 1.00)	0.90 (0.78, 0.97)
	FilmArray RP	0.90 (0.56, 1.00)	1.00 (0.92, 1.00)
NPA	DFCI/BWH	1.00 (0.74, 1.00)	0.71 (0.49, 0.87)
	FilmArray RP	0.85 (0.62, 0.97)	1.00 (0.81, 1.00)

<sup>a</sup> BAL, bronchoalveolar lavage; NPA, nasopharyngeal aspirate.

<sup>b</sup> DFCI/BWH, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women's Hospital; RP, respiratory panel.

<sup>c</sup> The estimated positive and negative predictive values did not change much when the second sample obtained from the three patients who underwent testing twice were excluded

<sup>d</sup> These estimates excluded the two samples in which parainfluenza 2 and parainfluenza 3 were detected by clinical testing but not by FilmArray RP assay since verification testing did not test for either of these pathogens