

Table 3. GRADE Summary of Findings of Test Accuracy Results for Prevalence/Pre-Test Probability of 10% for different specimen types

	Oral	Nasal	Nasopharyngeal (NP)	Nasal (2 studies NP as comparator)	Saliva	Mid-turbinate	
Sensitivity % (95% CI)	56 (35 to 77)	76 (59 to 94)	97 (92 to 100)	95 (87 to 100)	85 (69 to 94)	100 (93 to 100)	
Specificity % (95% CI)	99 (99 to 100)	100 (99 to 100)	100 (99 to 100)	100 (99 to 100)	100 (99 to 100)	100 (99 to 100)	

Outcome	Effect per 1,000 patients tested						No of patients (studies)	Test accuracy CoE ^f
	pre-test probability of 10% ^e							
	Oral	Nasal	Nasopharyngeal	Nasal (2 studies)	Saliva	MT		
True positives (patients with COVID-19)	56 (35 to 77)	76 (59 to 94)	97 (92 to 100)	95 (87 to 100)	85 (69 to 94)	100 (93 to 100)	Oral: 645 (4) Nasal: 412 (7) NP: 185 (4) Nasal (2 studies): 85 (2)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW a,b,c,d
False negatives (patients incorrectly classified as not having COVID-19)	44 (23 to 65)	24 (6 to 41)	3 (0 to 8)	5 (0 to 13)	15 (6 to 31)	0 (0 to 7)	Saliva: 39 (1) MT: 50 (1)	
True negatives (patients without COVID-19)	891 (891 to 900)	900 (891 to 900)	900 (891 to 900)	900 (891 to 900)	882 (684 to 900)	900 (882 to 900)	Nasal 457 (2) Saliva: 489 (1) MT: 452 (1)*	⊕○○○ VERY LOW a,b,c,d
False positives (patients incorrectly classified as having COVID-19)	9 (0 to 9)	0 (0 to 9)	0 (0 to 9)	0 (0 to 9)	18 (0 to 216)	0 (0 to 18)		

Explanations: This table is based on applying the sensitivity and specificity estimates to calculate True and false positives and negatives in a hypothetical population of 1000 individuals.

*No studies reported on the specificity of oral and NP

- The case-control design leads to a serious study population bias.
- Some studies compared two or more of the specimen types, but no studies compared all specimen types in the same patient population. Studies reported test accuracy results but did not report on patient-important and population-important outcomes based on the results.
- There is serious unexplained heterogeneity.
- Considering the upper vs lower limits of the sensitivity's confidence interval would lead to different clinical decisions.
- Typically seen in symptomatic outpatients who have not reached a hospital facility.
- Certainty of evidence (CoE)