

Does the Presence of IgG Antibodies Mean that a Patient is Immune from COVID-19?

An interesting study published in The Lancet on June 11 by Silvia Stringhini and others looked at the weekly seroprevalence of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies within the population of Geneva during the epidemic.

They looked at randomly selected participants and their household members aged 5 years and older. They tested each participant for anti-SARS-CoV-2-IgG antibodies using a commercially available ELISA test. They then estimated the seroprevalence taking into account the test performance and adjusting for the age and sex of Geneva's population. They planned 12 consecutive weekly serosurveys. They found that most of the population of Geneva remained uninfected during the wave of the pandemic despite the high prevalence of COVID-19 in the region. They assumed that the presence of IgG antibodies was associated with immunity and the results that they found highlighted that the epidemic is far from coming to an end by means of fewer susceptible people in the population. They also found a lower seroprevalence from children between 5–9 and adults older than 65 compared with those aged 10–64.

The London General Practice provides a full testing service including COVID-19 PCR swabs and SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies using the very best available analysers.

We are able to offer a same day service on COVID-19 PCR swabs if the swab is at the laboratory prior to 11:00 a.m. (this service does not operate on Sundays).

The SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody test is performed on the Abbott analyser, which has no false positives and the results are usually available within 24–48 hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to make use of these services.

Dr Paul Ettlinger
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 The London General Practice