Evaluate Vantage

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Lucira brings a $50 home Covid-19 test to the US – slowly

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The first Covid-19 test authorised by the FDA for use by the patient at home has come not from one of the diagnostics giants. Rather, it has been developed by a small private group which has, over the past five years, secured less than $70m in funding. Lucira Health, formerly known as Diassess, yesterday gained EUA for the Lucira Covid-19 All-In-One kit, a prescription-only test that can be used at home to detect viral RNA on self-collected nasal swabs by people aged 14 and older. The swab is put in a vial that is itself placed in a battery-powered test unit. In 30 minutes or so the results appear on the unit's light-up display. The assay had positive and negative percent agreement of 94% and 98% respectively, when compared with "one of the most reliable" FDA-authorised molecular tests, according to its instructions for use. Lucira says the test will cost around $50 but roll-out will take time: it will be available to patients in Northern California and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale region of Florida "in the near future", but US-wide availability is likely to take until early spring 2021.

Lucira Health's funding

Date	Round	Investment ($m)	Investors
Jan 16, 2020	Series B	17.5	Undisclosed
Aug 5, 2019	Series B	15.0	DCVC Management; Eclipse Ventures; Seraph Group; Shangbay Capital; Sunstone Management; Y Combinator
Jul 16, 2018	Grant	21.9	Barda
Oct 9, 2015	Series A	13.1	Eclipse Ventures; Data Collective; Hedgewood; DHVC; StartX
	Total	**67.5**	

Source: EvaluateMedTech, company communications.

The Lucira Covid-19 All-In-One test kit