

Diagnosics groups square up to Omicron



[Elizabeth Cairns](#)

One group of medtechs were largely resistant to Friday's bloodbath on the markets: Covid-19 test developers. Several have been quick to clarify that their tests can accurately detect the new Omicron variant despite its many mutations, with Qiagen stating that all of its PCR tests for the virus had been assessed successfully against the variant using public genetic databases. Thermo Fisher went further, pointing out that its TaqPath PCR assays could distinguish Omicron infections from those caused by Delta, thanks to the so-called "[S gene drop out](#)". The Alpha and Omicron variants have this genetic quirk, but Delta does not, and since Delta is now so prevalent any drop out samples seen recently are likely from patients with Omicron. Currently this has to be confirmed with full sequencing of the viral genome, but Thermo Fisher is also working on specific genotyping assays for Omicron. And on Friday, Eurofins launched a new test that can differentiate Omicron from Delta. Called GSD NovaType Select P681H, this assay can be used as a large-scale screening test for PCR-positive samples. Eurofins also sells tests that can distinguish Omicron from other variants of concern, and its US listing closed up 13% on Friday.

Diagnosics companies vs the markets

Company	Selected molecular Covid-19 tests	SP move on Friday
Eurofins Scientific	GSD NovaType Select P681H*	12.7%
Oxford Nanopore Technologies	LamPore Covid-19	4.8%
Quest Diagnostics	Sars-Cov-2 rRT-PCR	3.6%
Qiagen	QIAstat-Dx Respiratory Sars-Cov-2 Panel; NeuMoDx Flu A-B/RSV/Sars-Cov-2 VantageAssay	3.4%
Siemens Healthineers	Fast Track Diagnostics Sars-Cov-2 Assay	1.9%
Illumina	CovidSeq Test	1.2%
Thermo Fisher	TaqPath Combo*; TaqPath CE-IVD RT-PCR*	0.9%
Abbott	Abbott RealTime Sars-Cov-2 assay	0.6%
Becton Dickinson	BD Sars-Cov-2 Reagents for BD Max	0.3%
Roche	Cobas Sars-Cov-2; Cobas Sars-Cov-2 & Influenza A/B	0.2%

*Can distinguish Omicron from Delta. Note: the S&P 1500 HealthCare Equipment & Supplies index was down 2% on Friday.

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