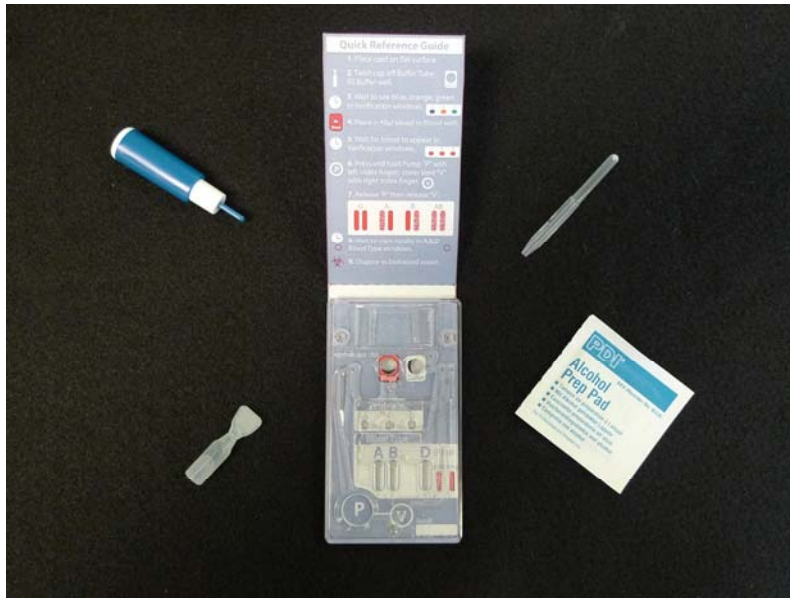


**TATRC Highlighted Research News Article:  
ABO/Rh Forward Typing for Efficient Donor Screening**

**June 23, 2009**

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**New Rapid Blood Typing Test for In Field Donor Screening**



*The Micronics ABO/Rh blood-typing kit will indicate blood type and Rh factor in less than 30 seconds. The card is the size of a credit card.*

A new technology that provides a rapid, portable, cost-efficient way to determine the blood type of potential donors will make blood collection safer for soldiers in the field; it is expected to be available by the end of this year.

Sometimes blood products from military collection centers do not reach local areas of high demand because mobile surgical units have limited carrying capacity. Currently, medical personnel may have to wait hours or days to qualify a blood donor for responding to emergency blood supply requirements.

The new Micronics ABO/Rh Card is a disposable, credit card-sized device that can accurately determine the ABO blood type and Rh factor from a single drop of blood in less than 30 seconds.

It is the first device that does not require refrigeration or supporting equipment and that works in a closed system to protect the blood sample and reagents from environmental contamination.

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's (USAMRMC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) has been collaborating with Micronics' Dr. Diane Wierzbicki to help her team advance the card through clinical trials with the goal of getting an FDA-approved product out to the soldier in the field.

Wierzbicki notes that TATRC has helped Micronics enlist investigators with access to large volunteer populations in order to complete field trials of the device in a timely manner.

TATRC Director Col. Karl Friedl says, "Current blood screening methods are labor and time intensive, with results produced up to hours later remote from the collection center. Fast turn-around screening is needed to register new donors and schedule blood draws in response to emergent medical needs."

Says Wierzbicki, "The ABO/Rh Card will make it possible to recruit those with specific blood types for which there is the greatest need—to put them at the head of the line, in effect. This could be in response to military field operations, during time of natural disaster, or other medical emergencies where the military provides vital services. The card also provides another layer of safety by enabling personnel in the field to confirm the blood type stated on the soldier's dog tag."

