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Paragon Orthopedic Center Grants Pass, Oregon

Covid-19 Antibody Testing: Myths and Facts

With the Coronavirus monopolizing the news headlines and conversations, there is a lot of misinformation being spread, sometimes even by “authorities”. The Wall Street Journal did a fantastic job recently by going through some of the myths and facts about antibody testing. Paragon Orthopedic Center is quick to educate you on hot topics, so that you can be the person in the room with the facts.

What is an antibody test versus a diagnostic test? A diagnostic test tells you if you have the virus. A nasal swab is typically used for this. Antibody tests require blood and can tell if you previously had the virus.

What is an antibody? It is a protein produced by the body that neutralizes the virus.

Can I get the Covid-19 virus twice? We don’t know yet. This will take time to study.

Where can I get tested? If you are symptomatic or think you have been exposed, you need to call the Covid Triage Line at Asante: (541) 789-2813. They will guide you through what your next steps should be. Testing for asymptomatic people is not recommended right now. Over the counter test kits are being developed and will hopefully come in the near future.

How reliable are the tests? There are many variables to the testing, making reliability uncertain right now. Make sure the test is from a reputable lab or diagnostic company.

Should I just expose myself and get it over with? No. There is not enough information known about this virus. Young, healthy people have died from it. Even though there are stories about people who have been asymptomatic, you do not know how your body will react to a Covid-19 infection. We are trying to slow down the infections so that our hospitals are not overwhelmed. Intentionally becoming sick and adding another case in the hospital would be foolish. Stay home if you are at a higher risk, stay safe with protective measures, and save lives.

These are summaries of the answers provided in the Wall Street Journal article. You can read more elaboration on these questions and more here:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/facts-and-myths-about-coronavirus-antibody-tests-11587675200>