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Walk-Through screening system for COVID-19

With the ongoing novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of individuals that need to be tested for COVID-19 has been rapidly increasing. A walk-through (WT) screening center using negative pressure booths that is inspired by the biosafety cabinet has been designed and implemented in Korea for easy screening of COVID-19 and for safe and efficient consultation for patients with fever or respiratory symptoms. Here, we present the overall concept, advantages, and limitations of the COVID-19 WT screening center.

The WT center increases patient access to the screening clinics and adequately protects healthcare personnel while reducing the consumption of personal protective equipment. It can also increase the number of people tested by 9–10 fold. However, there is a risk of cross-infection at each stage of screening treatment, including the booths, and adverse reactions with disinfection of the booths. We had solved these limitations by using mobile technology, increasing the number of negative pressured booths, reducing booth volume, and using an effective, harmless, and certified environmental disinfectant. A WT center can be implemented in other institutions and countries and modified depending on local needs to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Walk-through; Screening; SARS-CoV-2; COVID-19; Pandemic

Biography:

Dr. Lee received Medical Degree from the Eulji University. He completed internship and residency training in Internal Medicine at Kangbuk Samsung Hospital, Sungkyunkwan University and fellowship training in Division of infectious disease, Department of Internal medicine at Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University. Now he is the Director of the Division of infectious disease, Department of Internal medicine, and the manager of infectious control team of H Plus Yangji Hospital since 2016.