INTRO
• Dried blood spots (DBS) can potentially be a feasible alternative to venous blood in low-resource settings, provided these assays can achieve adequate sensitivity and specificity.
• We undertook a systematic review to determine the validity and reliability of dried blood spot specimens in measuring IgG and IgM antibodies to vaccine-preventable diseases in humans.

METHODS
• Inclusion criteria: studies testing for IgG or IgM antibodies to measles or rubella using dried blood spots for index test and blood for reference test
• We identified whether studies reported practical aspects in evaluating the use of dried blood spot specimens in measuring IgG and IgM antibodies to vaccine-preventable diseases in humans.

RESULTS
• We identified 26 studies that evaluated DBS and 4 studies that evaluated liquid capillary blood against a recognized reference specimen for a vaccine-preventable disease
• Good performance of DBS compared with serum in the detection of IgM and IgG antibodies for different VPDs
• Wide variation in reporting from studies reporting the measurement of IgM and/or IgG antibodies against different VPDs

DISCUSSION
• Sparsity of data and variability in methods limits inferences
• The number of studies concerning dried blood spots identified in our review may not accurately reflect the existing number of studies actually using DBS in different settings
• The frequent usage of dried blood spots may have precluded researchers from conducting additional validation studies

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