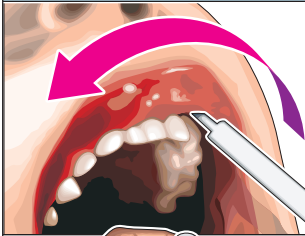


Home test for virus that causes AIDS

A 20-minute swab-based test, already being used in U.S. clinics to test for HIV, could soon be available for people to test for the disease in their own homes. People who live with the infection but don't know they have it are the cause of more than six in 10 of all new HIV infections each year

1. Swab inside of mouth between cheek and gum to pick up cells lining mouth



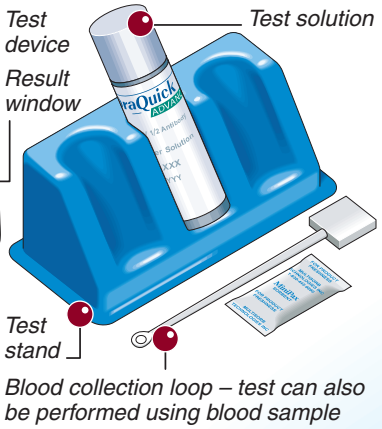
2. Immerse swab in vial of test fluid



3. Wait 20 minutes. Result window shows if test has detected HIV-1 or HIV-2 antibodies



Result window: As specimen spreads up window – like ink on blotting paper – protein molecules detect HIV antibodies made by human immune system and trigger colour change



Negative result: Reddish-purple line appears in C-zone and no line appears in T-zone  
Accuracy: 100%



Positive result: Coloured line appears in T-zone  
Accuracy: More than 99%



Cost: Between \$12 and \$17  
Positive result should be confirmed through additional test by doctors or public health officials

Source: OraSure Technology

© GRAPHIC NEWS