

RAPID HIV TESTS



They are known as rapid tests as they do not require the sample to be sent for laboratory analysis, which means the results are available shortly after doing the test.

Some tests will require a drop of blood to be extracted (a simple prick in the finger is enough), while others simply involve taking a sample of oral fluid from the gums.

01 TEST TYPES

Third-generation tests detect the presence of antibodies generated by the body in response to HIV. Fourth-generation tests, in addition, detect the presence of an HIV protein (p24 antigen).

02 WHAT IS THE 'WINDOW PERIOD'?



This is the time it is necessary to wait from the moment when the risk situation occurred until a reliable test is possible.

If the test is third generation, it is necessary to wait for 3 months to ensure that you have produced antibodies. If it is a fourth-generation test, the window period is a much shorter 6 weeks.

03 ARE ITS RESULTS RELIABLE?

Rapid tests are highly reliable. If you test positive, you should nevertheless confirm it with a laboratory test.

04 WHERE CAN I BE TESTED?

Many HIV organisations do the test for free and anonymously or can recommend where you can have it done. Ask them!

You can also be tested at chemists' shops in some Autonomous Communities (Cantabria, Castile-Leon, Catalonia, Ceuta, Basque Country).

05 REMEMBER:

- Rapid HIV tests are a good way of finding out whether you have the virus.
- Window periods are different, depending on the type of test.
- Any positive result should be confirmed with a further laboratory test.



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¿TIENES DUDAS
SOBRE EL TEMA?
PREGÚNTANOS

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