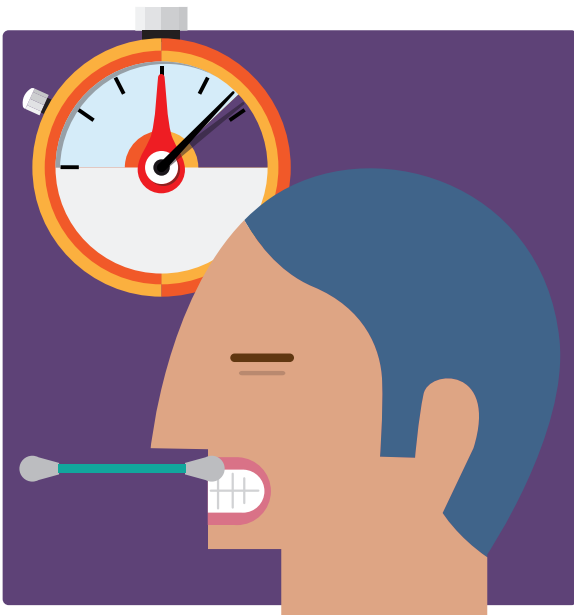


They are known as rapid tests as they take just a few minutes to determine whether or not a person has HIV, without requiring laboratory analysis. Some tests will require a drop of blood (a simple prick in the finger is enough), while in others a sample of oral fluid (a gum smear) is enough.

## RAPID HIV TESTS



### 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'?



It refers to waiting time from the moment of exposure to risk until the test result is reliable.

In third or fourth generation rapid tests, it is necessary to wait up to 3 months for a definitive result. In fourth generation laboratory tests, 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.

**gt** grupo de trabajo sobre tratamientos del VIH  
ENTIDAD DECLARADA DE UTILIDAD PÚBLICA  
ONG DE DESARROLLO

**SUBVENCIÓN**

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MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD, CONSUMO Y BIENESTAR SOCIAL / SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES, POLÍTICA DE FAMILIA, JUVENTUD E INCLUSIÓN SOCIAL

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Ajuntament de Barcelona / ÀREA DE QUALITAT DE VIDA, IGUALTAT I ESPORTS  
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¿TIENES DUDAS SOBRE EL TEMA? PREGÚNTANOS

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