

## **HIV SELF-TESTING: ASSESSMENT OF THE USABILITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN RAPID ATOMO DEVICE.**

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**Background:** An estimated 12-15% of those with HIV in Australia are undiagnosed. HIV self-testing could potentially provide broader access to testing and increased diagnosis. We assessed the usability of the Australian ATOMO rapid self-testing device.

**Methods:** Patients attending Holdsworth House Medical Practice in Sydney, September 2016 to May 2017, at HIV risk who had not previously tested HIV positive were enrolled in a prospective observational study. Demographic data was recorded. Following an instructional four minute video, participants performed the ATOMO self-test with access to a visual instruction aid, whilst the performance of the required critical 1-6 steps of testing were assessed by trained study coordinators: removal of sterility tab, lancet-prick finger, administration of sufficient blood to tube, flipping tube to well, ensuring blood moved into well, and buffer application. Concurrent plasma 4<sup>th</sup>-generation Siemens ADVIA Centaur XPT Immunoassay System was performed.

**Results:** Of 521 adult participants, 98% were male, 93% MSM, 91% spoke English as primary language, 78% had HSC or higher education, 49% were receiving PrEP. Concordance of self-test with laboratory HIV testing results was 99.8%. Observed success for performance of steps 1-6 respectively were: 99.8%, 98.7%, 94.4%, 96.8%, 92.8%, and 97.6%. Average critical step usability was 96.8%. Correct performance of all critical steps 1-6 was 88.7%. Additional steps of washing hands, checking test expiry date and massaging finger pre-test were conducted in 87.2%, 44.9% and 84.2% of participants respectively. Ease of use of self-test was rated by 76% as  $\geq 8/10$ .

**Conclusions:** There was a high level of usability of the ATOMO self-test by Australian participants. HIV self-testing could provide a viable additional option to access of HIV testing in the community.

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