

## TUPEE449 - Poster Exhibition

### TITLE

**Investigating feasibility and acceptability of a rapid HIV self-testing device in adolescents and young adults**

### PRESENTER

**Philip Smith**

### AUTHORS

P. Smith, M. Wallace, L.-G. Bekker

### INSTITUTIONS

The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, Institute for Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Science, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

### Background:

While HIV counseling and testing (HCT) are traditionally available from clinics and day hospitals in South Africa, most adolescents do not access these and do not know their status. Adding HIV self-testing to the option menu may afford an opportunity to test for those who would otherwise delay testing. The objective of the current study was to investigate the usability and acceptability of an HIV rapid self-testing device in adolescents and young adults (16-25) at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre and Mobile Clinic.

### Methods:

Self-presenting adolescents and young adults were invited to participate in the study investigating the fidelity, usability and acceptability of the AtomoRapid HIV Rapid self-testing device. During the study 224 participants enrolled, where 155 (69,2%) were female. A healthcare professional demonstrated use of the device to participants. Participants then completed the self-test in the presence of the healthcare professional who rated the participants' accuracy of using the device. After completing the HIV self-test, participants rated the acceptability and usability of using the HIV rapid self-testing kit.

### Results:

Overall, fidelity was high; 216 (96,4%) participants correctly completed the test and read and interpreted the HIV test result. There were eight (3,6%) user errors; six participants failed to prick their finger even though the lancet fired correctly. These participants correctly completed the test and read their results correctly on a second attempt. There were two user errors where participants failed to use the device correctly by breaking the device capillary tube and not filling the capillary tube. Participants rated acceptability and usability highly, with debut testers giving significantly higher ratings for both. Younger participants gave significantly higher ratings of acceptability.

### Conclusions:

The results of this study show that HIV self-testing with the AtomoRapid device was highly acceptable and that adolescents and young people can accurately use the device. Further research may investigate how much further support is needed to ensure that self-testing is undertaken safely.

[More information](#)