

Satisfaction of HIV rapid test among clients attending a Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) Clinic

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Background

Overseas authorities have recommended the use of HIV rapid testing in point-of-care settings. We conducted a pilot project to study the use and acceptability of OraQuick HIV rapid test in a government voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) clinic in Hong Kong.

Method

A self-administered satisfaction questionnaire was conducted after pre-test counselling and blood collection (finger prick for rapid test and venepuncture for a parallel conventional antibody test) by clients who were recruited through the AIDS Hotline from 5 February to 18 May 2004. Satisfaction was assessed using 8 questions on various aspects of rapid test.

Results

Two hundred and twenty two clients (99.1%) responded to the satisfaction survey. All were satisfied with the rapid testing. Result available within the same day was preferred by all respondents and perceived as the most satisfied part in rapid testing (87.3%) (Figure 1). 79.2% of respondents preferred it even if there is a charge. 38.3% found the rapid testing stressful, but only 5.9% opined that it is better to wait for a week before getting any result. 57.5% preferred taking blood from finger prick than venepuncture. All clients reported understanding the meaning of reactive rapid test result. 97.7% would recommend rapid testing to a friend (Table 1). Sex, age, marital status, ethnicity and suspected exposure were not associated with satisfaction (all $p > 0.200$). Tertiary or above education and previous HIV testing were associated with a higher degree of satisfaction (both $P < 0.001$).

Figure 1. Most satisfied part in rapid testing (n=221)

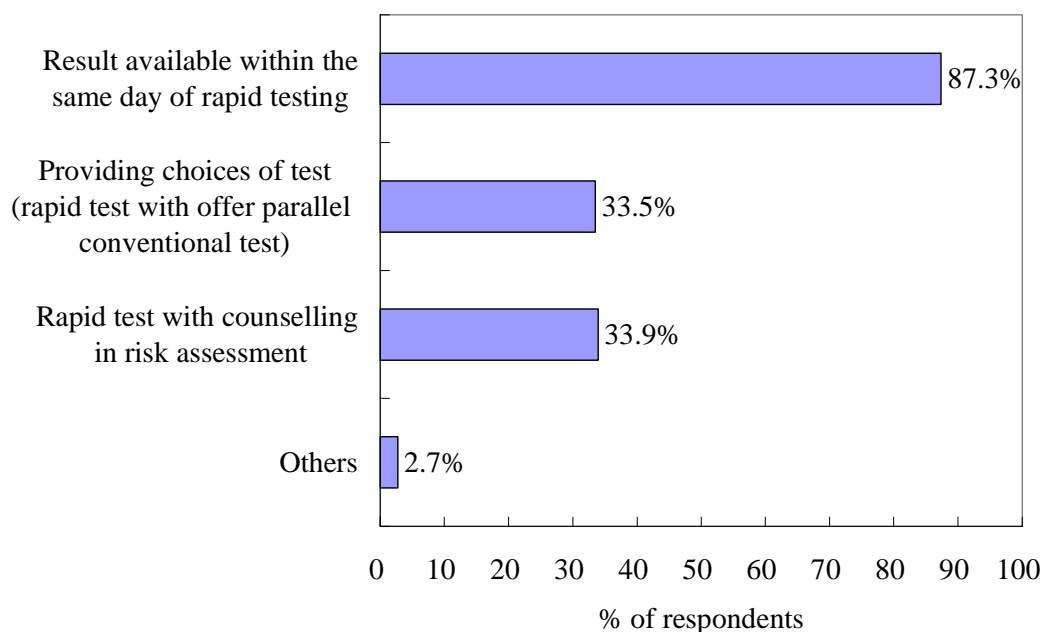


Table 1. Satisfaction level with rapid testing

	No. (%) of respondents (n=222)			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I prefer receiving my results the same day	175 (78.8)	47 (21.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
I prefer having rapid test even if I have to pay a charge?	35 (15.8)	140 (63.3)	34 (15.4)	12 (5.4)
I found the rapid testing stressful?	25 (11.3)	60 (27.0)	103 (46.4)	34 (15.3)
It would have been better to wait a week before getting any result?	2 (0.9)	11 (5.0)	111 (50.2)	97 (43.9)
I would rather have my finger stuck than have blood drawn from my vein?	40 (18.1)	87 (39.4)	83 (37.6)	11 (5.0)
I understand the result of my rapid test?	87 (39.4)	134 (60.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
I would recommend rapid testing to a friend?	81 (36.7)	135 (61.1)	5 (2.3)	0 (0.0)
I am satisfied with the rapid test?	102 (46.2)	119 (53.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

Conclusions

Clients were satisfied with rapid testing, especially with its nature of prompt availability of result. Clients with higher education and previous HIV test showed greater satisfaction. The results of this satisfaction survey support the introduction of rapid test in our VCT service.