

THE LANCET HIV

Supplementary appendix

This appendix formed part of the original submission and has been peer reviewed.
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Supplement to: Gross J, Tumwesigye NM, Mutembo S, et al. Acceptability, feasibility, and effectiveness of caregiver-assisted HIV self-testing among children using an oral mucosal test in Uganda and Zambia: a prospective interventional study. *Lancet HIV* 2025; **12**: e325–37.

Supplemental Material

Table 4. Caregivers' perceptions of paediatric HIVST: Reported acceptability, feasibility, safety, and social harm

Caregiver Survey Questions	Zambia		Uganda		Caregivers Reporting a Reactive or Invalid HIVST	Caregivers Reporting a Negative HIVST
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Unweighted
	n=469	% (95%CI)	n=2,251	% (95%CI)	n=100*	n=2,620
Would you use an HIVST again to test a child for HIV?	n=469		n=2,205		n=99	n=2,573
Yes	465 (99.2%)	99.2 (98.5, 100.0)	2,185 (99.1%)	99.1 (98.7, 99.5)	96 (97.0%)	2,552 (99.2%)
Would you recommend HIVST to other parents?	n=469		n=2,205		n=99	n=2,573
Yes	430 (91.7%)	92.2(89.8, 94.6)	2,185 (99.1%)	99.1 (98.7, 99.5)	96 (97.0%)	2,517 (97.8%)
How was your experience testing your child with an oral HIVST kit?	n=469		n=2,249		n=99	n=2,619
Easy, or very easy	436 (93.0%)	93.7 (91.5, 95.8)	2,201 (97.9%)	97.8 (97.2, 98.4)	93 (94.0%)	2,544 (97.1%)
Neither easy nor difficult	32 (6.8%)	6.1 (4.0, 8.2)	32 (1.4%)	1.4 (0.9, 1.9)	4 (4.0%)	60 (2.3%)
Difficult, or very difficult	1 (0.2%)	0.2 (0.0, 0.6)	16 (0.7%)	0.7(0.4, 1.1)	2 (2.0%)	15 (0.6%)
Were the instructions in the oral HIVST kit easy to understand?	n=469				n=14	n=455
Yes	433 (92.3%)	92.9 (90.6, 95.2)	N/A	N/A	12 (85.7%)	421 (92.5%)
Did you need assistance administering the oral HIVST to your child?	n=469				n=14	n=455
No	443 (94.5%)	94.8 (92.9, 96.8)	N/A	N/A	12 (85.7%)	431 (94.7%)
Yes	26 (5.5%)	5.2 (3.2, 7.1)	N/A	N/A	2 (14.3%)	24 (5.3%)
What could be done to improve caregiver-assisted oral HIVST for children? (select all that apply)	n=466		n=2,238		n=99	n=2,605
Information – provide community education and mobilization to increase awareness of this option	235 (51.1%)	49.4 (44.9, 54.0)	1,215 (54.0%)	53.0 (51.0, 55.1)	45 (45.0%)	1,405 (53.6%)
Access – improve access to oral HIVST for caregivers	164 (35.0%)	35.2 (30.8, 39.6)	918 (40.8%)	40.7 (38.7, 42.8)	36 (36.0%)	1,046 (39.9%)
Nothing – no recommendations	135 (28.8%)	29.9 (25.7, 34.1)	480 (21.3%)	21.9 (20.1, 23.6)	24 (24.0%)	591 (22.6%)
Kit – make the oral kit easier to use	31 (6.6%)	6.2 (4.0, 8.4)	126 (5.6%)	5.7 (4.7, 6.6)	6 (6.0%)	151 (5.8%)
Counseling– improve counselling and demonstration caregivers receive when given HIVST kit	46 (9.8%)	9.4 (6.8, 12.1)	110 (4.9%)	4.9 (4.0, 5.8)	14 (14.0%)	142 (5.4%)
Instructions – better instructions on how to use the HIVST kit	48 (10.2%)	9.8 (7.1, 12.5)	80 (3.6%)	3.7 (2.9, 4.5)	5 (5.0%)	123 (4.7%)
Other	1 (0.2%)	0.2 (0.0, 0.6)	105 (4.7%)	4.5 (3.7, 5.4)	3 (3.0%)	103 (3.9%)
Did the child experience any discomfort or injury from using the oral HIVST? (If yes, select all that apply)	n=469		n=2,251		n=100	n=2,620
No	467 (99.6%)	99.7 (99.3, 100.0)	2,242 (99.6%)	99.6 (99.4, 99.9)	98 (98.0%)	2,611 (99.7%)
Yes – gum pain (6 cases), bleeding (5 cases), or itching (1 case)	2 (0.4%)	0.3 (0.0, 0.7)	9 (0.4%)	0.4 (0.1, 0.6)	2 (2.0%)	9 (0.3%)
Did the child experience any social harm or violence as a result of the oral HIVST?	n=469		n=2,251		n=100	n=2,620
Yes	0 (0.0%)	0.0	0 (0.0%)	0.0	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Other	N/A	N/A	7 (0.3%)	0.3 (0.1, 0.6)	2 (0.2%)	5 (0.2%)
Did the caregiver experience any social harm or violence as a result of the oral HIVST?*					n=86	n=2,165
Yes	N/A	N/A	0 (0.0%)	0.0	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
If HIVST had not been available, how would you have tested your child for HIV?					n=100	n=2,620
Facility	313 (66.7%)	67.3 (63.0, 71.6)	1,782 (79.2%)	78.7 (76.9, 80.4)	75 (75.0%)	2,020 (77.1%)
Home visit by healthcare worker	126 (26.9%)	26.5 (22.5, 30.5)	390 (17.3%)	18.1 (16.5, 19.8)	20 (20.0%)	496 (18.9%)
Do not know	9 (1.9%)	1.7 (0.6, 2.9)	54 (2.4%)	2.3 (1.7, 2.9)	5 (5.0%)	58 (2.2%)

*In Zambia, the survey did not assess any potential social harm to the caregiver.

*For the 100 caregivers of children with a reactive or invalid HIVST result, 14 were from Zambia and 86 were from Uganda.