Mapping the Terrain: A Situational Analysis of HIV Self-Testing

Yamilée Virginie Hébert, RN
Marilou Gagnon, RN, PhD, Associate Professor, Director of the Unit for Critical Research in Health
School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa

Introduction

Background: In recent years, HIV self-testing (HIVST) has received a great deal of attention in the field of HIV because of its potential impact on access and uptake of HIV testing. For the purpose of this project, the following question was addressed – What are the existing positions and arguments on HIVST in the scientific literature?

Objective: The objective of this project was to identify and map the current positions and arguments on HIVST. These findings will contribute to further research on this topic and a more comprehensive mapping project.

Methodology

The literature was thoroughly reviewed to present all the positions on HIVST. This project followed the principles of situational analysis as described by Clarke.

The review was conducted using the following search engines:
- PubMed
- CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature)
- Embase

The key words used in the search engines were:
- “Self-testing” AND HIV
- “Self-test” AND HIV
- “Home testing” AND HIV
- “Home test” AND HIV

Eligibility Criteria

Full-text articles that presented one or multiple arguments on HIVST published at any time and anywhere in the world were analyzed.

Results

The search results in number of articles per key word combination and per database are provided in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key words in title</th>
<th>PubMed</th>
<th>CINAHL</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Self-testing” AND HIV</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Self-test” AND HIV</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Home testing” AND HIV</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Home test” AND HIV</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample yielded was 131 articles. Each article was then placed within one of the following categories depending on its theme (Figure 2):
- Articles showcasing arguments
- Articles providing context
- Scientific research

Discussion & Conclusion

This project provides an overview of the positions and arguments on HIVST. This project underlines how these positions and arguments come together in the literature. As such, it allows for new research gaps and new research questions to be identified.

References


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Contact Information

Yamilée Virginie Hébert, RN
yhebe065@uottawa.ca

Marilou Gagnon, RN, PhD, Associate Professor, Director of the Unit for Critical Research in Health
marilou.gagnon@uottawa.ca
(613) 562-5800 ext. 8249
http://www.health.uottawa.ca/sn/personnel/mgagnon.htm