

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

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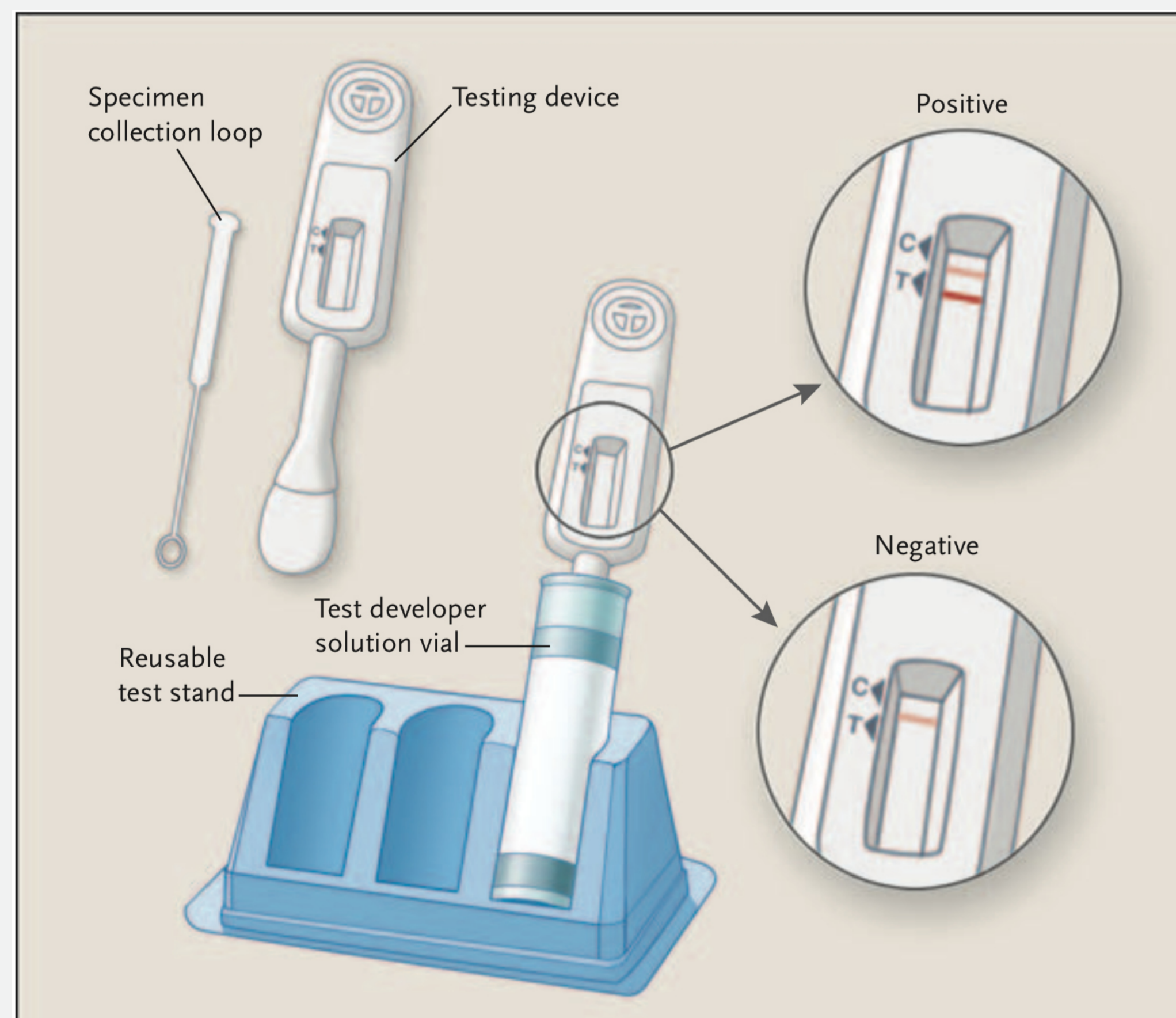
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Introduction

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.

Figure 1¹



The OraQuick Rapid HIV-Antibody Test, Showing Positive and Negative Results.

Methodology

The literature was thoroughly reviewed to present all the positions on HIVST. This project followed the principles of situational analysis as described by Clarke².

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 1

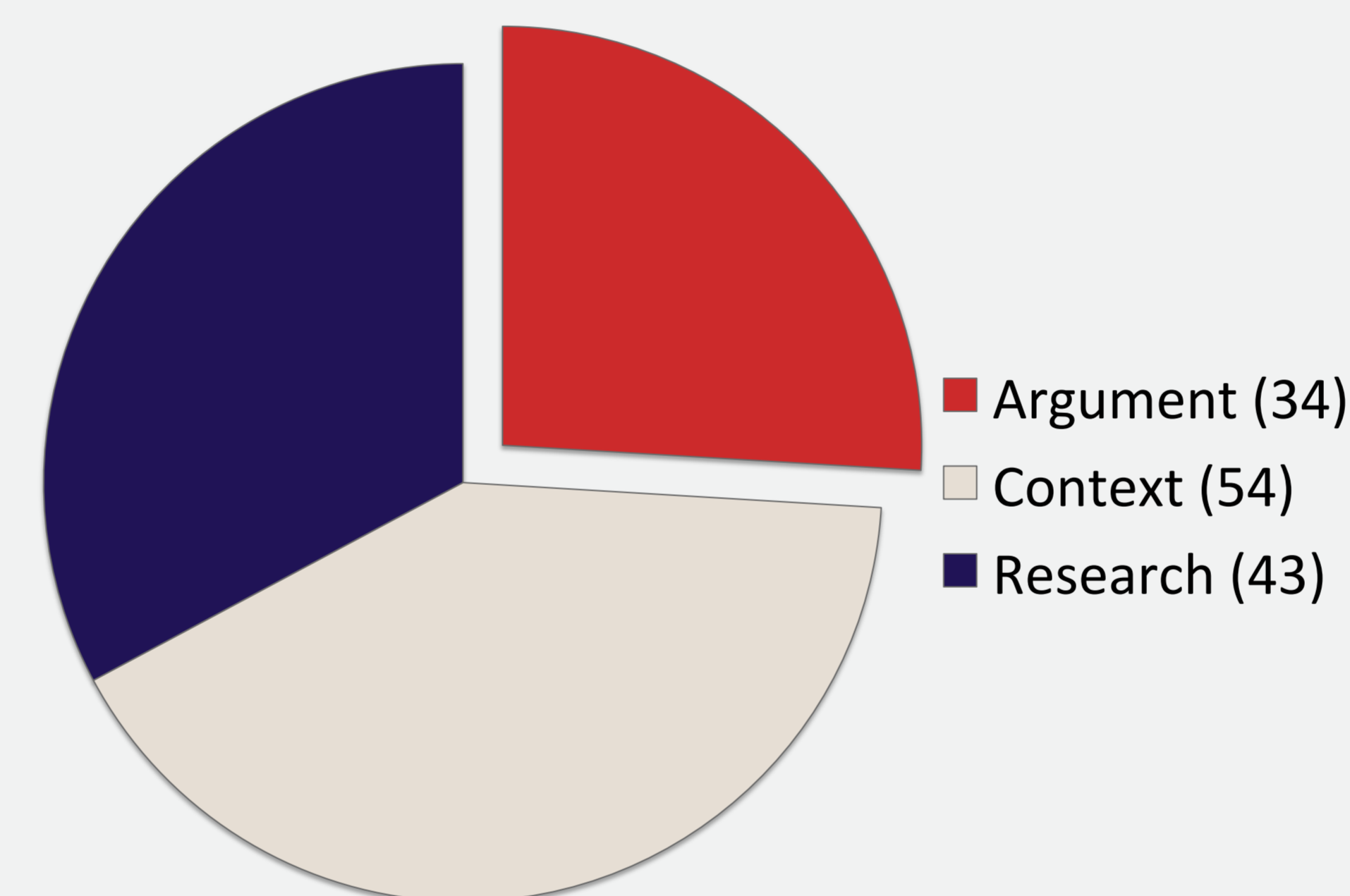
Key words in title	PubMed	CINAHL	Total
“Self-testing” AND HIV	41	2	43
“Self-test” AND HIV	4	0	4
“Home testing” AND HIV	15	28	43
“Home test” AND HIV	21	20	41
Total	81	50	131

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**

Figure 2

Article Distribution



The articles within the “argument” category were analyzed by the research team. The positions and arguments presented in each article were summarized in a table. Using this table, the research team proceeded to identify and map emerging themes. A modified positional map³ was developed based on these themes (Figure 3). Each line in the positional map represents a “line of argument” found in sample.

Figure 3



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

- ¹Wright, A. A., & Katz, I. T. (2006). Home testing for HIV. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 354(5), 437-440.
- ²Clarke, A. E. (2003). Situational Analyses: Grounded Theory Mapping After the Postmodern Turn. *Symbolic Interaction*, 26(4), 553-576.
- ³Mason, T. (2002). Forensic psychiatric nursing: a literature review and thematic analysis of role tensions. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 9, 511-520.
- ⁴Think Different Campaign. (2013). *The Stigma Project*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thestigmaproject.org/#!/campaigns/c1hw5>

Acknowledgements

Special thanks and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Marilou Gagnon for her supervision of this project, her ongoing assistance, encouragements and valuable teaching. This research was supported by the University of Ottawa’s Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) research grant.

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