



# HIV TESTING IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME

By Rafa Carvajal

**A**s we commemorate World AIDS Day this week, I felt it was important to bring you an interview with Ron Ticho, Senior Vice President - Corporate Communications of OraSure Technologies, the maker of the new OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, so you can learn more about this new test that you can use in the privacy of your own home.

**Q: Explain the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test to our readers. How does it work?**

**A:** The OraQuick® In-Home HIV Test works by looking for your body's response to fighting the HIV virus (antibodies). An oral swab is used for testing and requires no blood. You just gently swipe the test swab along your upper gums once and your lower gums once. Then you insert the swab inside the test tube provided and get your results in just 20 minutes.

Here is how the test works:

1. HIV antibodies from oral fluid are collected through the swab.
2. Once the device is inserted in to the test tube, the oral fluid mixes with the liquid and travels up the test stick.
3. Results are ready in just 20 minutes.
4. If one line appears on the test stick and it is next to the "C," the test is negative.
5. If two lines appear on the test stick next to both the "C" and the "T," the test is positive.
6. If no lines appear next to the "C" on the test stick after 20 minutes, the test did not work.

**Q: What are the top three benefits of the OraQuick Test?**

1. **Trusted:** The same test healthcare professionals have used for years
2. **Fast:** Results in 20 minutes
3. **Convenience and Privacy:** The OraQuick In-Home HIV Test provides benefits such as convenience and privacy

**Q: Is this the same OraQuick Test used in clinics around the country or is this test somewhat different? Please explain.**

**A:** Yes. This is an over-the-counter version of the same test that professionals have been using for years; over 25 million rapid HIV tests have been sold to date to hospitals, clinics, community-based organizations and physician offices. The packaging and labeling for the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test have been specifically designed for used by consumers.

**Q: How often can you take the OraQuick Test?**

**A:** Each packaged test can only be used one time. If your test result is negative and you engage in activities that put you at risk for HIV, you should test regularly.

**Q: What types of resources are available to someone who gets an HIV positive result using the OraQuick Test?**

**A:** If a result is positive, there are a couple of important things that must be done. A clinic or healthcare professional must confirm the test result. We have trained representatives at our Support Center on call to immediately help anyone who may need assistance, before, during or after taking the test. Our Support Center is accessible, toll-free at 1-866-436-6527, any time, 24/7, 365 days a year. All calls are confidential.

In addition, individuals can visit our website for links to resources and care locations near them. There is more information about HIV and what your results mean to you, available through the booklets "HIV, Testing & Me" and "What your results mean to You!" that can be downloaded from the site. The booklets are also provided inside each kit.

**Q: Are there any differences between the OraQuick Test and other available HIV antibody tests with regards to showing a positive result for a person who has recently become HIV infected (three months or less)?**

**A:** No. As with all HIV antibody tests, the OraQuick® test screens for antibodies (infection-fighting cells) to the HIV virus. Sometimes it can take up to 3 months for a person's body to make enough antibodies (infection-fighting cells) to trigger a positive test result. So, if you engage in activities that put you at risk for HIV on a regular basis, you should test regularly.

