

Can a Video Substitute for An In-Person Discussion In Delivering HIV Pre-Test Information to Spanish-Speaking Latinos and Better Serve Those with Lower Health Literacy?

Merchant RC, Clark MA, Liu T, Santelices C, and Cortés D

OBJECTIVES

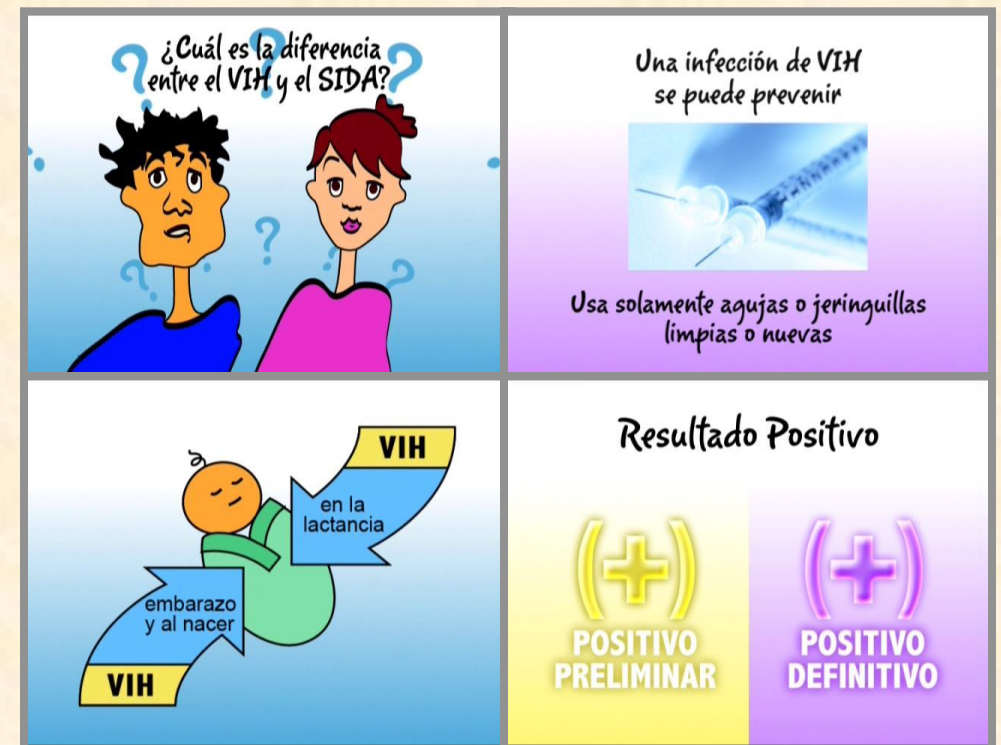
- First, we developed an animated and live-action video to better inform Spanish-speaking Latinos about HIV and HIV testing
- Next, we assessed the equivalence of the video to an in-person discussion with an HIV counselor regarding patient comprehension of HIV and HIV testing fundamentals
- And finally, we evaluated if the video was more effective for those with lower health literacy

METHODS

- First, we performed cognitive-based assessments to evaluate and refine the video with the assistance of **120** 18-64-year-old Latino patients/clients and **30** Latino HIV test counselors at three community-based organization and three clinical study sites
- Next, we conducted a non-inferiority trial among patients/clients at an emergency department, medical clinic, and community-based organization
 - Trial participants were randomly assigned to receive HIV pre-test information from a **video** or an **in-person discussion** prior to being HIV tested
 - Random assignment was stratified by health literacy level (lower vs. higher) by the SAHL-S
 - Comprehension of the HIV pre-test information was measured using a questionnaire
- The **non-inferiority criterion** would be met if the 95% CI of the difference (Δ ="video"-**"in-person"**) in questionnaire mean scores was $< 10\%$ decrease in the in-person discussion group's mean score
- Wilcoxon rank-sum testing was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the video among lower health literacy participants

RESULTS

- Of the **150** participants, **63%** were female, **78%** had ≤ 12 years of formal education, **39%** met criteria for lower health literacy, and **75%** had previously been tested for HIV
- Mean scores on the questionnaire for the video (**20.4; 95% CI: 19.5~21.3**) and in-person discussion (**20.6; 95% CI: 19.7~21.5**) groups were similar ($\Delta = -0.15$; **95% CI: -1.4~1.1**), which satisfied the non-inferiority criterion
- Mean scores among lower health literacy participants were not greater for the video group (**18.3** (video) vs. **19.6** (in-person discussion); **p<0.30**)



CONCLUSIONS

Among Spanish-speaking Latinos the video is a reasonable substitute for an in-person discussion in terms of patient comprehension of HIV pre-test fundamentals, but does not demonstrate an advantage among those with lower health literacy.