

Experience in using ready-to-use screening kits to facilitate cervical

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The authors declare that they have no conflict

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Introduction: Cervical cancer in Benin accounts for **15.9%** of female cancers screened between 2014 and 2020 (national cancer registry). Access to screening remains a challenge to be addressed, so that cases can be detected early to limit the very high morbidity and mortality associated with the disease. The aim of this study was to measure the acceptability, perceived effectiveness and practicality of a ready-to-use kit for performing the IVA/IVL test, compared to the standard device.

Method: This was a comparative study between the ready-to-use screening kit and the standard test (bulk inputs). A sample of 75 maternity care providers trained and equipped to carry out screening using the VIA/VIL technique on 100 women, 50 tested with the ready-to-use kit and the remaining 50 with the standard test. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered to the providers to gather their opinions on a number of criteria including ease of use, risk of error, risk of product loss and risk of adverse effects (burns). The data collected were cleaned and analyzed using SPSS 26 software.



Cervical Cancer Screening Kit



Graph: Showing the results of a comparative study of the use of a ready-to-use kit for performing the IVA/IVL test (cervical cancer screening) and the standard test (bulk supplies) in the departments of Couffo and Atlantique.

Results: Compared with the standard test, the kit proved superior (was rated significantly more acceptable ($p < 0.05$)) for the various criteria analyzed. Thus **76.0%** vs. **16.0%** for the standard test found it very easy to use; **74.8%** vs. **20.0%** for the standard test perceived it as having no risk of dilution error; **87.0%** vs. **35.0%** for the standard test perceived it as having no risk of burns; and **74.8%** vs. **14.4%** found it more economical, with less risk of product loss.

Conclusion: The results clearly demonstrate the advantages of the ready-to-use test over the standard test. This kit is easier to use, safer for patients and more economical. This kit could be recommended for routine cervical cancer screening.

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