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Stanford scientists design needle free HIV test

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A group of scientists at Stanford University in the US, in collaboration with the Alameda County Public Health Laboratory, has developed a simple, hassle-free diagnostic test for HIV.

In the new test, the group has combined the reliability of blood with the convenience of saliva tests to ensure detection before the infection could spread.

For the new test, bits of HIV were attached to one or the other arm of a DNA piece that was added into the saliva sample, where the arms would bind to the HIV antibodies, allowing easy identification using conventional laboratory methods.

While additional studies are required, the test is reported to have demonstrated the ability to correctly detect 22 subjects who tested HIV-positive using other methods.