

Clinical Tract

Group case studies

Post exposure prophylaxis and pregnancy

Case: Post exposure prophylaxis

Scenario

A nursing sister in casualty is inserting an intravenous infusion on a young male patient with acute lobar pneumonia. He has not been tested before for HIV. She pricks herself after withdrawing the needle from the vein.

Questions

1. Which infections can be transmitted via this route?
2. What tests need to be performed on her and the patient?
3. If this patient tests HIV positive, what treatment should she be offered? Write the prescription.
4. What are her options if the patient refuses an HIV test?
5. When should she be tested again for HIV?
6. What is her risk of acquiring HIV?

Case: Pregnancy and HIV

Scenario

A 22 year old patient tested HIV positive during VCT in the antenatal clinic. She is now 28 weeks pregnant. On physical examination she has oral thrush.

Questions for all participants

1. What needs to be evaluated further?
2. If she herself does not need antiretrovirals because her immune system is “coping”, what are her options to prevent MTCT HIV?
3. If she herself is in need of antiretrovirals, what is the regimen that she will be offered?
4. What side effects need to be monitored and how?
5. What are her choices regarding feeding options?
6. What are her choices regarding future family planning?
7. What problems might she face if she decides to disclose her HIV status to her family?
8. What problems might she face if she decides to hide her HIV status from her family?