

Case continued: The patient gives verbal consent to obtain HIV testing, as well as screening for other STDs. He is found to have positive HIV-1 antigen and antibody. HIV-1 RNA PCR shows a viral load of 360,000 copies. Other screening for STDs including gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis are negative. He returns to the office several days later for you to update him on the results.

4. What should your patient be counseled on now that he is found to be HIV positive?

Case continued: You discuss the diagnosis with your patient and encourage him to notify his current sexual partner, as well as any past sexual partners. He reports that he had several casual encounters over a year ago, before dating his current partner. He thinks he likely contracted HIV then. He is nervous to tell his current partner and does not know how he would notify those prior sexual contacts.

5. What types of assistance and support are available for partner notification?

6. What if a patient refuses to notify their sexual partner(s)? Are you legally mandated to report?

Recommended Reading

1. "HIV Infection: detection, counseling, and referral". Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated August 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/hiv.htm>

Additional References/Reading

2. Baile, W. et al. "SPIKES -A six step protocol for delivering bad news: application to the patient with cancer". The Oncologist 2000; 5:302-311. <http://theoncologist.alphamedpress.org/content/5/4/302.full>
3. "HIV Transmission Risk". Center for Disease Control and Prevention. July 2012. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/law/pdf/Hivtransmission.pdf>
4. HIV Fact Sheets. "Populations at High Risk for HIV: Route of Transmission". Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Last updated Sept 11, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/HIVFactSheets/Epidemic/Transmission.htm>
5. "Laboratory Testing for the Diagnosis of HIV Infection: Updated Recommendations". Center for Disease Control and Prevention. June 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/hivtestingalgorithmrecommendation-final.pdf>
6. Moyer V. "Screening for HIV: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement". Annals of Internal Medicine. 2013; 159:51-60.
7. O'Brien TR, George JR, Holmberg SD. "Human immunodeficiency virus type 2 infection in the United States". JAMA 1992; 267:2775--9
8. "Reducing HIV Transmission From Mother-to-Child: An Opt-Out Approach to HIV Screening". Center for Disease Control and Prevention. January 10, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/pregnantwomen/opt-out.html>
9. Rochelle P. Walensky, Kenneth A. Freedberg, Milton C. Weinstein, and A. David Paltiel. "Cost-Effectiveness of HIV Testing and Treatment in the United States". Clin Infect Dis. 2007; 45:S248-S254