



Ryan White Center for Pediatric Infectious Disease Riley Hospital for Children

Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

HIV can be transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy or child birth. Babies can also become infected after birth through breastfeeding. **Breastfeeding is not recommended for infants born to HIV infected mothers → this is a potential source of transmission of the virus to the baby.**

Medications

It is the Centers for Disease Control's recommendation that any infant exposed to an HIV positive mother be given AZT by mouth for 6 weeks. Other names for AZT include: ZDV, Retrovir, or Zidovudine. This medication is recommended to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to the infant. AZT should be given to the infant within six to twelve hours after birth. **This medication must be given every six hours by mouth every dose every time as prescribed to reduce the chance for HIV transmission to the baby.**

Lab Tests

Infants born to HIV infected mothers are recommended to have labs drawn at birth including HIV testing. Infants exposed to HIV will carry their mother's antibodies for the virus for up to 18 months of age so a traditional HIV antibody test will be positive. This **does not** mean the child is infected. However, infants exposed to HIV should have negative HIV viral load testing. This indicates the infant has no circulating virus.

Between two and four weeks of age, it is recommended that the infant see an HIV specialist. The baby should receive additional labs at two and four weeks of age.

The baby will need to be seen again by the HIV specialist at 4 months of age. Additional labs will be drawn at this visit. At this point, if all viral load tests are negative, the baby will be considered HIV negative.

The child will need an additional lab test at 18 months of age to document that the baby has cleared the mother's antibodies. This lab test may be drawn locally or by the HIV specialist.

Standard Precautions at home and in the Day Care Setting

Daycare centers are required to use standard precautions for every child entering their center. **It is not a requirement that parents disclose rule out testing or the diagnosis of HIV to any day care provider. It is however the responsibility of the parent or guardian to disclose rule out testing and results to any physician with which the child comes into contact.** Within the home, it is a good idea to dispose of any liquid waste including urine, vomit or stool containing blood in the toilet. Items which can not be flushed such as diapers should be disposed of in a plastic bag and placed in the trash. Any body fluid spill should be cleaned with 1 tablespoon of household bleach per quart of water.