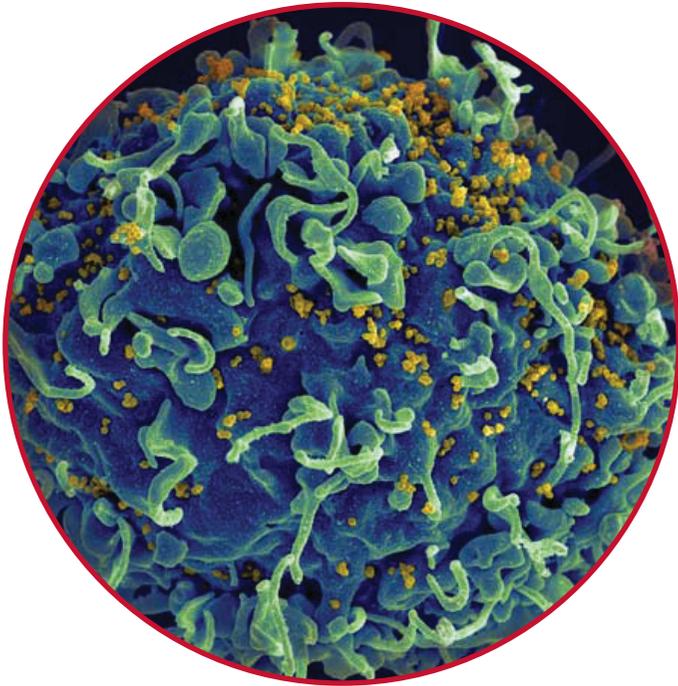


HIV IN PREGNANCY



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HIV Pre-test Counseling for Laboratory Testing

Testing for HIV infection is voluntary. Read this information carefully to help you decide whether to be tested or not. Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) is the cause of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). All persons infected with HIV can spread it to others through:

- Unprotected sex
- Blood transfusion
- Needle sharing
- From infected mothers to their newborn

What is HIV Antibody Testing?

HIV antibody test is a blood test which will show if you have antibodies to HIV – the virus that causes AIDS. A sample of blood will be taken from your arm. If the first test (screening) shows a positive reaction, another test (confirmatory) will be done to make sure that the first test is really positive. A positive antibody test means you have been infected with HIV. A negative test means you are probably not infected because it takes time for the body to produce antibodies. So, if you have been exposed recently, you need to be retested after 3–6 months to make sure you are not infected.

What are the Benefits of Taking the Test?

If you test negative:

You can learn how to protect yourself from getting infected by practicing safer sex (e.g. monogamous relationship, condom use).

If you test positive:

You can learn how to avoid transmitting the virus to others like your partner or unborn child and how to take good care of your health by adhering to your doctor's advice. Test results can help people make choices about contraception or continuation of pregnancy.

Voluntary HIV Testing

Taking all HIV antibody tests is voluntary. If you do not want to be tested, you have the right to refuse the test. If you want to have the test but don't want to reveal your identity, you can use a code name.

PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY: Your record will not be disclosed to others unless you direct us to do so or unless the law authorizes or compels us to do so. You may see your record or get information about it from your health care providers.

For further information on HIV write to us on: shlab@fernandez.foundation

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