

GUIDELINES FOR COUNSELLING PRE- AND POST HIV TESTING
FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING OR LIKELY TO RECEIVE FACTOR
CONCENTRATE AND CRYOPRECIPITATE

REASON FOR ADVISING HIV TEST

To monitor safety of blood products and because knowledge of the HIV status might be important in the management of the individual. Some people have been tested in the past without consent. It is now important to discuss testing with everyone, and document each person's consent to our continuing to HIV test, now and in the future. We will not test anyone who does not wish to be tested.

The discussion about HIV testing must be recorded in the case notes stating clearly what has been agreed. The Haemostatic screen on the computer must be appropriately updated.

DISCUSS

Mortgage and insurance difficulties.
Other difficulties, e.g. re employment or travel.

IMPLICATIONS OF A POSITIVE RESULT

Would that person want to know he was positive? Could he cope emotionally?

Does he know what a positive result means? - i.e. that he has been exposed to the virus at some time. We have no way of knowing at present if he will develop an illness related to HIV. Record in notes if patient expects to be told of any changes in his HIV status.

IMPLICATIONS OF A NEGATIVE RESULT

This means antibody to virus has not been detected. It does not prove that a person is not infected, although it is much less likely than if he has a positive result.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All patients treated as "risk of infection" and all concentrate users should take "high risk" precautions. We do not inform G.P's or other people treating them unless given specific permission by the patient. They may choose to disclose their status to someone who is treating them.

RISKS TO OTHERS

If possible, patient should prepare and inject their own treatment. Careful disposal of needles and equipment is very important.

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Advise use of condoms. Restrict where possible to established relationships.

HYGIENE/TOILET

No sharing of razors, toothbrushes or nail brushes.

Clean spillages of blood with bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water).

Encourage to identify themselves to doctors/dentists if they require invasive procedures.

Discourage from donating blood, organs, tissues, semen or carrying donor cards.

FURTHER COUNSELLING

Indicate to all individuals, both positive and negative for HIV that we are keen to offer further counselling in relation to HIV or any other matter.