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AIDS AND PREGNANCY

It is recommended by our providers that all newly pregnant patients be screened for HIV. Due to the preference of the pediatricians an AIDS screening should be obtained from every mother at their new OB visit with her prenatal profile. This will be done with every pregnancy even if a prior pregnancy was negative. If the mother declines the test, the baby will still be screened at the time of delivery.

“If a woman is infected with the AIDS virus and becomes pregnant, she is more likely to develop AIDS Related Complex (ARC) or classic AIDS, and she can pass the AIDS virus to her unborn child. Approximately one-third of the babies born to AIDS-infected mothers will also be infected with the AIDS virus. Most of the infected babies have been born to wives of hemophiliac men infected with the AIDS virus by way of contaminated blood products. Some babies have also been born to women who became infected with the AIDS virus by bisexual partners who had the virus. Almost all babies with AIDS have been born to women who are intravenous drug users or the sexual partners of intravenous drug users who were infected with the AIDS virus. More such babies can be expected.” (1)

It is unclear when the unborn or newborn child is at highest risk for infection. Evidence suggests that transmission of the virus may occur in the uterus, during labor or delivery, or after birth through infected breast milk. “Women at high risk include intravenous drug abusers, prostitutes, sex partners of known infected, bisexual, or drug abusing men, and women from countries where the incidence of heterosexual transmission is high.” (2)

If there is any chance that you may be in any high risk group, speak with your doctor about antibody testing.

I do wish to be tested for AIDS

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I do NOT wish to be tested for AIDS

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(1) Surgeon General’s Report on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

(2) Annals of Internal Medicine. 1986; 105:730-736. Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus in the Hospital, John E. Conte, Jr. M.D.; San Francisco, California