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AIDS SAFETY GUIDE LINES

You may not realise, but one of the patients you see may be infected with the AIDS virus called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

The person may be unaware

OR

The person may be aware

AND SO WILL NOT
INFORM YOU

AND STILL NOT
INFORM YOU

WILL
INFORM YOU

Do not panic

Know some facts about HIV and its progression to AIDS

HIV IS SPREAD



Infected dose
is present in
Blood
Semen
Vaginal fluid

NOT SPREAD



Though detected in very small amounts in Saliva and tears-Non infective. Risk of transmission through Breast milk-Non Significant.

Detailed clinical history essential

1. WHOM TO ASK

- ♦ All cases having STD/History of STD.
- ♦ Patients presenting with any of following symptoms & signs :
 - ♦ Unexplained weight loss > 10%
 - ♦ Chronic diarrhoea
 - ♦ H/o Chronic cough (> 15 days)
 - ♦ Oropharyngeal Candidiasis
 - ♦ Multidermatomal Herpes zoster
 - ♦ Non-genital Molluscum
 - ♦ Black Hairy Tongue

2. WHAT TO ASK

- ♦ **Sexual life Style :**
 - ♦ Sexual orientation (Hetero/Homo/Bi-sexual)
 - ♦ Number of partners
 - ♦ Type of partners (Prostitute/Casual/Steady partner)
 - ♦ Place of sexual encounter
 - ♦ Use of condoms (regular or not)
- ♦ **Transfusion history :**
 - ♦ Type of products (Blood/Plasma Cryoprecipitate etc)
 - ♦ Pre screened for HIV (yes/no)
- ♦ **Drug addiction :**
 - ♦ Type, route, whether needles shared

3. DECIDE WHETHER TO TEST FOR HIV INFECTION. REMEMBER

- ♦ This step is to help your patient NOT to stigmatise or isolate.
- ♦ Refusing care to potential HIV infected persons is unethical
- ♦ Informed consent is necessary
- ♦ Pre and post test counselling is essential
- ♦ Confidentiality is crucial
- ♦ Convince patient to inform spouse/partners.

4. SAFETY

Follow universal infection control rules.

Form a habit always to:

- ♦ Follow general principles of hygiene*
- ♦ Use judiciously selected protective apparel**
- ♦ Use clean and sterilized instruments/equipments***
- ♦ Use high level chemical disinfectants****
- ♦ Decontaminate and/or discard all used material properly
- Use gloves while handling used sharp instruments.
- Do not recap used needles
- Use appropriate disinfectant like Sodium hypochlorite before discarding (for detail : Refer Biosafety Guidelines)

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