

TRANSMISSION & PREVENTION

Pregnancy

IF you are a woman with HIV/HCV coinfection who is thinking about having a baby there is important information that you need to know before you become pregnant.

HIV: A woman who has HIV can become pregnant and have a healthy baby free of HIV. But there are certain important steps that need to be taken. The most important step is to make sure that HIV viral load is undetectable at time of birth. For this reason a doctor may change HIV medications or start the woman on HIV medications especially after the first trimester. A doctor may also recommend a cesarean section to lower the risk even more.

HCV: Transmitting HCV from a mother to child is uncommon. But it is important to know that, even if the transmission from mother to child is uncommon, it can happen. It is also important to know that the medications used to treat HCV can cause birth defects so a woman can't become pregnant when she is on HCV medications.

HIV/HCV Coinfection: If the mother is coinfecting with HIV/HCV the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HCV is higher. The risk appears to be lower, however, when the mother's HIV-HCV viral load is low or undetectable.

educate yourself

Check this out:

- There is a 20% (20 out of 100 women) chance that hepatitis C can be transmitted from the mother to the child if the mother is also infected with HIV.
- If you are thinking about having a baby, talk with your doctor or nurse about your options.

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