Resource Column

HIV and Pregnancy Web Sites

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Abstract

This column reviews seven Web sites that address HIV and pregnancy.

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Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is now at the stage of a pandemic. While HIV somewhat limits fertility, pregnancies still occur (Glynn et. al., 2000). Thus, all health care providers need to have current information regarding pregnancy complicated by HIV. The Web sites listed below represent the best available resources. They are presented in alphabetical order. The reader should be cautioned that many older Web resources on HIV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) still exist on the Internet. Thus, the reader should carefully assess for a date of last revision before trusting the content of a particular Web site.

Consumer Resources

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's HIV in Pregnancy
www.dartmouth.edu/~obgyn/mfm/PatientEd/HIV.html

This Web site provides a good summary for laypersons and includes the following sections: description, impact on pregnancy, pregnancy impact on HIV, special considerations, and additional information and resources. The site represents one page of a much larger resource sponsored by Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. The site also includes a toll-free telephone number for the National AIDS Hotline, which is pre-

sented in both English and Spanish. The design of the Web site is easy to follow and the language is simple. The site is only available in English and a date of last revision is not displayed.

- Pregnancy and HIV: Is AZT the Right Choice for You and Your Baby?

www.hivatis.org/pregnhiv

This Web site is a basic handout that is appropriate for parents who need information about the use of AZT during pregnancy. The Web site was prepared by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with Columbia University School of Public Health. Much of the information was taken from the publication titled *You, Your Baby, & AZT: The Choice is Yours*, which was prepared by the New York/New Jersey Provider Consortium and supported by the Maternal Child Health Bureau and the Health Resources and Services Administration to the Northern Manhattan Women and Children HIV Project. The site's home page is set up like a table of contents so that the user may click on the topic of interest. The home page also features a culturally diverse photo compilation of women. The site's content is simple, direct, and easy to understand. The main heading areas are highlighted with different colors for easy navigation. The table of contents includes short sections in the following areas: babies and HIV infection, what everyone should know about AZT, what researchers have learned about babies and AZT, information about the women in the study, questions and answers about the study, talking with health care providers, and additional resources. The section titled "You Can Find Out More" includes toll-free telephone numbers for both English- and Spanish-speaking individuals and a toll-free access number for TYY/TDD. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) address is listed for postal queries. This site has two limitations: no date to indicate when the content was last revised and English-only text. Despite these limitations, the site is an excellent Web resource, overall.

Professional Resources

- American Family Physician's Management of Newborns Exposed to Maternal HIV
www.aafp.org/afp/20020515/2049.html

This site is the link to the actual full text article published in *American Family Physician*, a peer-reviewed journal.

The article is written at an average to high level and includes a patient-information handout that can be downloaded, free of charge. A PDF version of the article is also available for download and printing. The Web site also features links to regularly updated HIV/AIDS management guidelines. Topic areas on the site include information on the natural course of HIV infection in infants, antiretroviral drug therapy, Zidovudine protocol, reduction of perinatal HIV transmission with clinical scenarios and management recommendations, maternal care before delivery, monitoring of newborns, *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia prophylaxis, screening for tuberculosis, modifications of standard infant care, and psychosocial issues. References are also included. The Web site links to the *American Family Physician* home page and includes search capabilities. The Web site is easy to navigate and the text is written clearly.

- Centers for Disease Control Perinatal HIV Prevention Program

www.cdc.gov/hiv/projects/perinatal/default.htm

This section of the CDC Web site includes information from the most recent perinatal HIV-prevention grantees' meeting. An update of national organizations' professional education and training is also available. Various plenary sessions, workshops, and roundtable discussions are provided. Links to previous conferences are available, along with most slide presentations. A link to the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention is noted. Program background and goals, recommendations/guidelines, information about the grantees, and other resources are available on the site. The site is mid- to high level and easy to use.

- Johns Hopkins AIDS Service Guidelines for Managing HIV in Pregnancy

www.hopkins-aids.edu/publications/report/may01_1.html

This Web site represents updated guidelines on the management of HIV during pregnancy, as recommended by the United States Public Health Service Task Force. The Web site includes sections on treatment timelines, agent selection, preconception counseling, cesarean section, and additional considerations. Content in this site is presented at a high level. The Web site is easy to navigate and presented in English. Links to other publications are provided.

- MedlinePlus AIDS and Pregnancy
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/aidsandpregnancy.html

This site is a comprehensive resource providing the latest information on HIV/AIDS during pregnancy. Content is presented at an average to high level. Main sections include the following: latest news, general/overview, clinical trials, prevention/screening, research, treatment, dictionaries/glossary, organizations, statistics, children, and Spanish information. The site has recently been updated and is easy to navigate. It may also be appropriate for consumers who have a higher reading level.

- Virtual Hospital's HIV/AIDS: Pregnancy in AIDS
www.vh.org/Providers/ClinRef/FPHandbook/Chapter11/12-11.html

This Web site represents one section of a comprehensive

AIDS chapter in a virtual textbook. The physician author and his affiliation are prominently displayed at the top of the page. The site is high level and medically oriented. Mosby conducts an external review of the site's content, and a bibliography is provided. The following sections are included: starting AZT, use of Nevirapine, information about the increased miscarriage rate among HIV-positive women, procedures that increase fetal exposure to maternal blood, and prophylaxis of opportunistic infections during pregnancy.

Reference

Glynn, J. R., Buve, A., Carael, M., Kahindo, M., Macauley, I. B., Musonda, R. M., Jungmann, E., Tembo, F., & Zekeng, L. (2000). Decreased fertility among HIV-1-infected women attending antenatal clinics in three African cities. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, 25, 345-352.

HIV and Pregnancy Web Site Resources

For Consumers:

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www.dartmouth.edu/~obgyn/mfm/PatientEd/HIV.html
- Pregnancy & HIV: Is AZT the Right Choice for You and Your Baby?
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For Professionals:

- American Family Physician's Management of Newborns Exposed to Maternal HIV
www.aafp.org/afp/20020515/2049.html
- Centers for Disease Control Perinatal HIV Prevention Program
www.cdc.gov/hiv/projects/perinatal/default.htm
- Johns Hopkins AIDS Service Guidelines for Managing HIV in Pregnancy
www.hopkins-aids.edu/publications/report/may01_1.html
- MedlinePlus AIDS and Pregnancy
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/aidsandpregnancy.html
- Virtual Hospital's HIV/AIDS: Pregnancy in AIDS
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This box may be copied and used as a handout for expectant parents, compliments of the *Journal of Perinatal Education* and Lamaze International (www.lamaze.org).