

HIV/AIDS UNIT

Acquired_____Immune___Deficiency Syndrome_____

Human_____Immunodeficiency____Virus_

1. What is AIDS? A fatal, communicable virus (communicable means you can pass it but you have to do something (share needles, have sex) it isn't contagious!! (we'd all have it) the fact that it's a virus means it treatable but not curable

2. Name the two major lymphocytes in the body and explain the function of each:

___T cells_____ and _____B cells_____

Function: Tcells tell the B cells to make antibodies to fight viruses_

3. Why is a person infected with HIV unable to fight off opportunistic infections?

Because HIV kills T-cells so nothing tells B cells to do work. (opportunistic means a disease takes the OPPORTUNITY of a person's weak immune system to make them sick and possibly kill them) The most common Opportunistic infection in the US is pneumonia

4. What have health officials done to reduce the risk of HIV infection from a blood transfusion?

All blood has been tested since 1986 and they only use disposable sterile needles (there is a slight risk due to poor testing. There is zero risk to donate blood)_

5. For whom is HIV testing required?

Anyone who wants to join the military and blood/organ donors _____

6. For whom is HIV testing recommended?

surgeons, nurses, EMT, police, fire, heroin users, people who practice risky sexual behaviors, pregnant woman

7. What is ELISA?

__it is a blood test for HIV antibodies__(it doesn't detect the virus but doctors assume if you are making antibodies, you must have virus)_____

8. What steps are taken after a positive ELISA result?

_take one or 2 more and if 2 say yes, take the western blot test. More accurate but too expensive to use first.

**results take anywhere from a few days to 2 weeks. There is a fast test but if it says yes, you need to do ELISA and western blot to confirm

9. How long is it before a person shows initial flu-like symptoms of HIV?

Typically 3-6 months_

10. What factors are used in making a diagnosis of AIDS?

_____T-cell count below 200 and the presence of an opportunistic infection

11. What is the life expectancy with HIV and AIDS?

With no treatment, around 10-12 years. With medicine, unknown. people (like Magic Johnson) have been HIV positive for over 30 years with no signs of having AIDS

12. What medications are available to HIV+/AIDS patients?

AZT (given to pregnant women. Only works for about a year because virus constantly mutates and medicine can't keep up. The most common is the HAART also known as the AIDS cocktail. It is a mix of drugs that shows promise at staying one step ahead of mutating virus.

There is also PrEP which you can take to help prevent getting the virus from your HIV+ partner