Rapid HIV Test

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Why You Should Take an HIV Test

- All pregnant women should know if they are HIV positive.
- An HIV positive mother can pass HIV to her baby during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.
- If you have HIV and are not treated, there is about a 25% chance that the virus will be passed to your baby.
- If you have HIV and take medication, it is less likely that the virus will be passed to your baby.
Rapid HIV Testing

- The new HIV rapid test can give you your test result in 1-2 hours.
- The test can be done through a simple finger-stick or by giving a blood sample.
- The faster you know your HIV test result, the sooner you can get treatment if your test is positive.
- This will also help prevent transmission of the virus to your baby.
Options for Treatment

- If your test is positive, you will be offered medicines to decrease the chance of passing HIV to your baby.
- These will *reduce* the chances of passing the virus to the baby, they will *not eliminate* them.
- There are different medicines available to you such as AZT through an IV drip during labor.
- After birth, your baby will be given medicines also, most likely AZT in syrup form.
More About the Rapid Test

- These tests are not perfect. In a few cases the test result may be incorrect.
- If the first rapid test is positive, we will confirm the result by doing the standard HIV test.
- If your rapid test result is positive, but the standard test is negative, you may think you have the virus for a short period of time.
- If this happens, you will be given medications that you do not need.
- All the effects of these medicines are not known, but no serious side effects have been seen in people who take them for a short time.
Your Rapid HIV Test was Negative

- Your HIV test was negative. This means there is no sign of HIV infection at this time.
- Do you have any questions?
- Here is some information on how to prevent HIV and other STDs.
Your Rapid HIV Test was Preliminary Positive

- Your HIV test was positive which means you could have HIV infection.
- Remember, this is a screening test. Your blood will be sent to the lab for further testing so that we can be sure that the preliminary result is correct.
- It will take a few days to get those results back. It is important that you return for care and to get the results.
Medicine for Your Baby

- We want to make sure that your baby is healthy.
- We will give you some medicine to help protect your baby.
- The sooner the medicine is started, the better it works to prevent transmission.
In the Meantime......

- Until we get your confirmatory results do not breastfeed your baby.
- If the test comes back negative, you do not have HIV and you will be given information on how to prevent HIV and STDs.
What Happens Next?

■ People often feel scared when they hear this news.
■ Can you tell me what you are feeling right now?
■ What questions or concerns do you have?