



Questions and Answers (Myths)

Q. Is there a cure for HIV/AIDS?

A. No. There are treatments to help extend life, but there is no cure or vaccine.

Q. Can having sex with a virgin cure someone who has HIV?

A. No. In fact, not only is there no cure but the virgin may also become infected.

Q. Can I get AIDS by being around people who are living with HIV?

A. There are only three ways to be transmitted HIV: sexual contact, blood-to-blood contact, and from mother-to-child. Being around and with people who are living with HIV/AIDS while not engaging in these activities is safe, there is no risk - activities such as sharing food, sharing clothes, and shaking hands with people living with HIV/AIDS poses no threat at all.

Q. Is it possible for people with HIV to have children?

A. Yes. Mothers who are HIV positive can seek treatment to help ensure that their children live their lives without HIV/AIDS. Precautions need to be taken, knowing ones own HIV status is vital for these precautions to take place.

Q. If I test positive, what will happen?

A. First, a positive test does not mean that you will die shortly. In fact, most people live healthily for many years. It is important to know our own status so that we can protect others and our family. Treatments can also extend the life of a person living with HIV/AIDS – many people have lived very long lives with these treatments.

Q. If two people are HIV positive and have sex, it does not matter, does it?

A. Yes, it does. Different versions of the virus can be passed between one another, re-infection can increase viral load, and treatment for such cases is very difficult because of resistance.

Q. I am married, so I can't get HIV/AIDS.

A. This is not true. You or your spouse may have contracted the virus before entering into marriage or the virus may have entered since the marriage, through a variety of means. Testing is important in all cases so that we know our own status, as well as our partners.

Q. Is HIV transmitted by mosquitoes or sharing food?

A. No.

Q. Can men be passed HIV by women?

A. Yes. Men can be passed the virus through sexual contact with women.