

Scenario 1

Participants

Doctor:

Obstetrician in a private practice.

Patient

Linda, 30 years old, working as a secretary, insured

Patient information

(this is what the doctor knows at the start of the conversation):

- HIV+ for the last 3 years
 - medications taken: *Truvada, Atazanavir, Ritonavir*
 - viral load has been undetectable for the last 2 years
 - all other lab results are normal
 - 12 weeks pregnant
 - living with a partner for the last year. He is HIV negative.
 - keeps her HIV status a secret to most of family members and all her friends.
 - This is a second routine prenatal check-up
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Patient's problem

(this is what the patient brings up during the conversation)

Linda seems is very distressed. She is concerned about the HIV drugs affecting her baby. She understands that the risk of HIV transmission is low, but she is very worried that the medications she is taking might cause the baby to not be normal.

As a physician, what do you think the patient feels?

What can you do/say to help them cope with their emotions?

What does the patient need to know understand the action of the HIV drugs and their targets in order to help her with her worries?

What other concerns need to be addressed/ recommendations given?

Scenario 2

Participants

Doctor:

General practitioner at a free clinic

Patient

Amanda, 22 years old, works at a daycare, uninsured

Patient information

(this is what the doctor knows at the start of the conversation):

- Amanda's HIV+ status was determined 6 months ago
 - She was prescribed Complera
 - This made her viral load drop steadily for the last few months
 - Her latest result shows however that the viral load started climbing again (*she is not aware of that yet, the doctor needs to communicate this result*)
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Patient's situation

(this is what the patient brings up during the conversation)

Amanda was in between jobs and apartments lately. She forgot to take the medication quite often. She is sexually active but doesn't have a steady partner.

As a physician, how do you convey to the patient that keeping the viral load under control is extremely important in her situation?

How do you convey aspects such as risks of transmission, drug resistance, etc.?

What do you think the patient feels in this situation?

Scenario 3

Participants

Doctor:

General practitioner at a private practice

Patient

Bob, 35 years old, works as web developer, insured

Patient information

(this is what the doctor knows at the start of the conversation):

- The patient was tested for HIV and is awaiting to find out his HIV status (the doctor has the result and it's negative)
 - Patient is generally healthy
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Patient's situation

(this is what the patient brings up during the conversation)

Patient is homosexual. He is very anxious to find out his HIV status. He is sexually active, and doesn't have a steady partner. He uses protection most of the time. He heard that there is a pill that can prevent HIV, and hopes that he can start it. He would also like to understand how the pill works.

As a doctor, what do you think a patient feels awaiting to find out his HIV status? Why do you think he thinks he might be HIV positive?

What does he need to know in regards to PrEP?

What instructions he needs to know in regard to practicing safe sex?