

Nursing (Clinical) Track: HIV Pregnancy Case Study (Presenter: Erika Aaron)

A 26 year old female approaches you for advice concerning her medical condition. She is a member of the church where you are a part of the health ministry. You know her family well as they have been members of your church for three generations.

She tells you that she was recently diagnosed as HIV positive 4 months ago. She has 3 children all under the age of 5 years. She has never been tested for HIV that she is aware of although she thinks she may have been tested during her last pregnancy.

No one is aware of her HIV status: no one in her family, none of her friends and her current partner of 1 year all are not aware of her status. She is afraid to tell anyone due to fears of rejection, stigma, and possible violence by her partner if he finds out her status.

She has not seen a medical provider since she was diagnosed 4 months ago. She was diagnosed when she went to the ER for a vaginal discharge and was treated for gonorrhea.

She has no other medical problems. She has no history of drug or alcohol abuse. No history of STDs prior to her ER diagnosis. She does have a history of childhood sexual abuse and abuse by a former partner.

She asks you your advice about what she should do about her HIV.

What other information do you need before providing her with advice?

She tells you that her partner does not like to use condoms.

She is not using any birth control method.

She tells you that her partner wants to have a baby, although she does not want any more children at this present time.

What would you advise her about birth control?

What would your advice about pregnancy be?

What would you tell her about disclosure of her HIV status?