

that school personnel receive current HIV information and include it in the health education curriculum for kindergarten through twelfth grade ([American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Pediatric AIDS and Committee on Infectious Diseases, 1999](#); [American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Pediatric AIDS, 2000a](#)). School nurses play a vital role in educating the school staff, students, and parents. They are also invaluable in monitoring the needs of known affected children.

Confidentiality is another major issue in daycare or school attendance. Parents and legal guardians have the right to decide whether they inform the daycare or school of their child's HIV diagnosis. Unfortunately, myths about HIV infection continue to exist, and the family often wishes to avoid any potential criticism or ostracism of the child.

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease

SCID is a defect characterized by absence of both humoral and cell-mediated immunity. The terms **Swiss-type lymphopenic agammaglobulinemia** that refers to the autosomal recessive form of the disease and **X-linked lymphopenic agammaglobulinemia** have been used to describe this disorder, which, as the names imply, can follow either mode of inheritance.

The most common manifestation is susceptibility to infection early in life, most often in the first month. The disorder in children is characterized by chronic infections, failure to completely recover from infections, frequent reinfection, and infection with unusual agents. Failure to thrive is a consequence of the persistent illnesses.

Diagnosis is usually based on a history of recurrent, severe infections from early infancy; a familial history of the disorder; and specific laboratory findings, which include lymphopenia, lack of lymphocyte response to antigens, and absence of plasma cells in the bone marrow. Documentation of immunoglobulin deficiency is difficult during infancy because of the normally delayed response of infants in producing their own immunoglobulins and maternal transfer of immunoglobulin G (IgG).

Therapeutic Management