

SICO/011



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INFORMED CONSENT FOR HIV TESTING

CONSENT FOR HIV ANTIBODY BLOOD TEST

Please read this consent form with care so that you can make an informed decision about getting the blood test done. You are welcome to ask your doctor or counselor any queries that you may have regarding this test.

1. INTRODUCTION : Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a serious disease caused by infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Not all persons with HIV infection develop AIDS provided preventive treatment and other measures are started on time. However, anyone with HIV can spread it to others. HIV is spread through unsafe sex, sharing of needles, or receiving blood or blood products or other tissues infected with HIV. Infected mothers can spread HIV to their babies through their breast milk. The test for HIV detects the body's reaction to the virus(antibody) and not the virus itself.

2. WHAT THE TEST MEANS : If the test is NEGATIVE it means that antibodies (body's immune response to the infection) were not detected in the blood sample. This usually means that the person is not infected with HIV. However, in some cases the infection may have happened too recently for the antibodies to have been generated and the test to be positive. It may take up to six months for the antibody test to be positive after HIV Infection.

If you test POSITIVE it means that antibodies (body's immune response to the infection) were found present in the blood sample this implies infection with HIV and you can pass it on to others. it does not mean that you have AIDS, Which is the most advanced stage of HIV Infection.

False results (negative test in someone who is infected with HIV or positive test in someone not infected with HIV) are rare. Indeterminate results (when it is unclear whether the test is positive or negative) are also rare. When the test result is indeterminate, repeat test or special confirmatory test may help determine the person's true status.

3. BENEFITS OF BEING TESTED : There are substantial benefits of being tested for HIV. Knowing one's HIV status helps people make personal and lifestyle choices including those related to sex, contraception and pregnancy. Infected persons benefit as they can start appropriate treatment to delay or prevent AIDS and other serious infections.

4. RISKS OF BEING TESTED : You may feel anxious till the test result is available. Repeat or further testing required in case of an unclear result may cause further stress. A positive test result may cause severe stress, anxiety and depression. You would be asked to consider declaring the result to your partner. Persons with negative test results may be tempted to indulge in risky behavior which may further increase the chances of contracting HIV infection.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY:

The law requires that health care providers (hospitals) and laboratories report the details of persons infected with HIV to the local health department. This helps the government in knowing the disease burden in the society and take appropriate action. Hospitals or laboratories do not maintain a separate list of persons with positive HIV testing.

In case the hospital bill is being directly settled by my insurance company, the hospital is bound to provide all treatment papers & test reports to the TPA/Insurance Company and patient privacy shall be disclosed, as the same is under exception & exemption. For such disclosure (s) I hereby give my consent to the hospital.

Initials of Patient /Patient's Representative (only if Patient is a minor or unable to give consent) _____