

Prophylaxis for Occupational HIV Exposure in Healthcare Workers

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ABSTRACT

Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is one of the world's most serious health hazards with a great impact on society. Health care workers are at a significant risk from occupational exposure to HIV due to their constant contact with potentially infectious body fluids from HIV patients mainly via percutaneous blood exposure. Hence, every health care worker including medical and dental professionals, nurses, laboratory personnel etc. should have utmost care and precise knowledge regarding the preventive measures, pre and post exposure prophylaxis on accidental exposure and use of anti-retroviral therapy. The present review informs us about the current risk of healthcare workers, making them aware of the precautions and prophylaxis available in case of occupational HIV exposure.

Keywords: HIV, AIDS, Post exposure, Prophylaxis, PEP, Healthcare workers

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