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Dispelling Popular Myths and Misconceptions

Amplicor H.I.V.-1 Monitor Test gets T.G.A. Approval

An extract taken from an article published in DysCourse Vol.6 No.3
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The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (T.G.A.) has granted market approval for Roche's Amplicor H.I.V.-1 Monitor Test, the first commercial test to accurately measure the quantity of H.I.V. (H.I.V.-1 R.N.A.) in a person's blood (viral load). Recent trials have shown a direct correlation between high levels of H.I.V. in the blood and H.I.V. related illness. The new test will become a vital tool in improving the longevity of people with H.I.V. by indicating H.I.V. disease prognosis and monitoring the effects of antiretroviral therapies.

Discussion should be encouraged to overcome the fear of showing ignorance, getting embarrassed, or being prejudiced; whilst H.I.V. / AIDS thrives on silence.

The test uses polymerase chain reaction (P.C.R.) technology, a process which amplifies and identifies specific D.N.A. or R.N.A. sequences. This technology is able to detect viral loads as low as 400 H.I.V. R.N.A. copies/mL much lower than other technologies such as branch D.N.A. (b.D.N.A.), which is accurate to 10,000 H.I.V. R.N.A. copies/mL.

The Amplicor H.I.V.-1 Monitor Test has been a vital component in recent clinical studies and the basis for the accelerated approval of a number of new H.I.V. drugs including protease inhibitors, the first new class of H.I.V./AIDS therapeutics to be introduced since 1987.

"Many of the newer antiretroviral therapies create a dramatic drop in viral load and it is important for us to monitor this drop with as much sensitivity as possible. The Amplicor H.I.V.-1 Monitor Test provides a better understanding of the effectiveness of anti-retroviral therapies and the impact of low viral loads on the progression of H.I.V. infection, which we are confident will lead to new therapies and improved disease management" states Dr. Davis Kingston, Medical Director, Roche Products Australia.

This is untrue, for both pre-operative and post-operative transsexual people can be infected by H.I.V. / AIDS: In fact, people have died of AIDS both pre-operatively, post-operatively and travelling in either direction.

A M.T.F.'s vagina can be impregnated with H.I.V. / AIDS infection via little tears, cuts and sores: For wherever possible the surgeon will have left the adjacent blood supply intact. Similarly, infections may be passed on in turn to someone else principally through unprotected penetrative sex.

With today's G.R.S., the surgeon will probably leave the prostate gland as a source of body fluid and lubricant to help with intercourse/orgasm; therefore, the advice given regarding such fluids applies in this instance.

F.T.M.s also emit, exude and extrude body fluids when having penetrative sex, so that they can transmit, or receive an infection from a positive partner. Being on male hormones does not make them immune from H.I.V. and AIDS.

Discussion should be encouraged to overcome the fear of showing ignorance, getting embarrassed, or being prejudiced; whilst H.I.V. / AIDS thrives on silence. There should be encouragement amongst us to increase the openness and honesty about sex.

By preventing an effective dialogue from being developed we run the risk of spreading infection by proliferation of myths and the suppression of truth.

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

related articles

WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT H.I.V. AND AIDS TRANSMISSION, SYMPTOMS, TESTING AND TREATMENT

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (H.I.V.) and can cause illnesses by breaking down the body's ability to fight infections.

BRAZIL'S UNCONVENTIONAL AIDS FIGHT AN H.I.V.-INFECTED TRANSEXUAL IS AMONG UNLIKELY LEADERS OF THE HAILED PROGRAM

Jacqueline Rocha Cortes turns heads, but she isn't the latest Brazilian fashion model to conquer the catwalks. Ms. Rocha Cortes, is a transsexual who is infected with H.I.V., and has emerged as a leader in one of the most widely heralded anti-AIDS programs.

TRANSENSUALITY H.I.V. / AIDS IN THE TRANS COMMUNITY

Myths about H.I.V./ AIDS in the transgender community, common feelings which inhibit safer and more enjoyable sex, how to use a condom, how to protect yourself against H.I.V., and other S.T.D.s and how to go about getting tested for H.I.V.. It doesn't have to be a drag!



The Gender Centre Video Collection!

The Gender Centre has created an assortment of videos with the aim of assisting the community to learn about gender issues.

Videos range from those dealing with workplace relations to broader topics such as "What is Gender".

Videos!

Women's Group

The Gender Centre will be hosting monthly meetings on a Friday exclusively for those who identify as feminine.

Guest speakers will be in attendance with a different topic each month, participants are strongly encouraged to inform the staff of suitable topics.

The Gender Centre Inc., - Serving the Gender Diverse Community!

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