

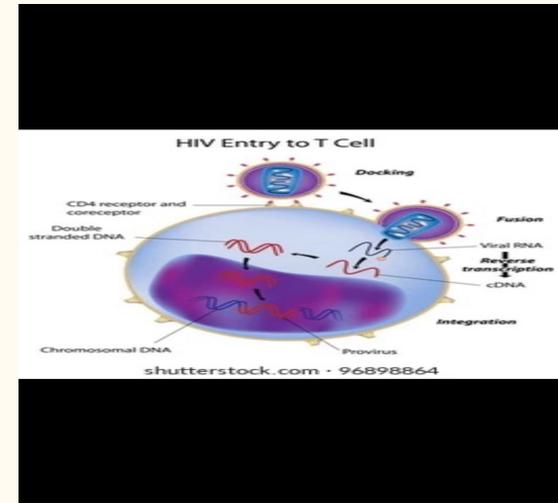
# HIV in Pregnancy

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# Disease Pathology of HIV

- ❑ HIV is a ribonucleic acid virus (RNA)
- ❑ It is called a retrovirus because they replicate in a “backward” manner going from RNA to DNA
- ❑ CD4+ T cell is the target cell for HIV
- ❑ HIV binds to the CD4+ T cell through fusion
- ❑ Normal range for CD4+ cells: 800-1200



# Disease Pathology of Maternal HIV

- ❑ **Maternal HIV:** when HIV is passed from a HIV positive mother to a HIV negative fetus:
- ❑ **Perinatal transmission:**
  - ❑ May infect the fetus by passing through the placenta (Antepartum)
  - ❑ May occur during labor and delivery (intrapartum)
  - ❑ May be transmitted during breastfeeding (postpartum)
- ❑ If you have a high viral load, you are at a greater risk of transmission to the fetus.
- ❑ Medication regimen (ART therapy) is highly recommended to decrease the possibility of transmission to fetus

# Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

- ❑ Zidovudine is widely used in the third trimester
- ❑ If ART before conception & wishes for children → switch to a simple ART
- ❑ In history of preterm delivery, may need to start ART sooner to ensure viral load is undetectable prior to delivery

# The Choice of Art

- ❑ The woman
- ❑ Knowledge
- ❑ Results
- ❑ Previous ART regimes
- ❑ Other available ART therapy



# Patient Management

- ❑ Knowing one's status = effective outcome
  - ❑ Reducing rates with treatment
  - ❑ ART
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# Nursing Role



# Nursing Actions & Responsibilities

- ❑ To ensure the patient is taking their medication (ART) if they are positive for HIV or taking medication as a cautionary measure
- ❑ Once an antibody test is ran and the pregnant mother is shown as positive it is important to prevent transmission to child
- ❑ If parents have not been tested, it is important to ensure to have the child tested

# Patient Education

- ❑ Educate the mother about being at a higher risk of transmitting HIV, while pregnant and breastfeeding
  - ❑ Educate mom about measures to decrease risk to baby while breastfeeding
  - ❑ Have the mom continue ART
  - ❑ Educate family about risky behaviours
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# Impact to the Community

- ❑ If positive, we could show them how to keep their viral load low
- ❑ If the baby comes out positive, we could educate them as they grow so they are able to keep themselves and other kids safe as they get older
- ❑ We would need to make sure to keep the mom positive about having HIV and telling her that she can still live a normal long life
- ❑ We would educate the parents that it doesn't change the fact that they can do everything any other parents can do with their kids

# References

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