

Mother-child: vertical way This type of transmission occurs during:

- pregnancy
- childbirth
- feeding time.

An HIV-positive woman (ie positive for HIV) has a 20% chance of transmitting the virus to her newborn. Thanks to the new drugs, administered during pregnancy and to the newborn in the first months of life, the risk threshold has been lowered.

AdvertisementHowever, it is always advisable for couples who want to have a child to undergo an HIV test to check for any positivity to the virus. Sexual wayIt is the most common mode of infection. Transmission occurs by contact with infected body fluids (sperm, vaginal secretions or blood) and mucous membranes.

In fact, small lesions of the genital mucosa, also caused by the intercourse itself, can carry the virus. Hence, unprotected intercourse is a very real risk factor especially with occasional partners. However, it should be remembered that, in addition to HIV, there are many sexually transmitted infections. Interrupted coitus, as well as the use of the pill or the diaphragm, do not protect against infections.

Much also depends on the amount of virus present in the biological fluid.

Vaginal and anal sex are the practices with the highest risk of contagion. It is lower, however, (but always possible) in the case of oral intercourse. AdvertisementThe presence of other infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital herpes or syphilis also increase the risk of contracting HIV.



There are therefore no subjects at risk but risky behaviors, such as unprotected intercourse and the exchange of syringes for those who take drugs. AIDS: how it is NOT transmitted through saliva, tears, coughs, sweat, feces and urine sharing plates, glasses, forks and other dishes, towels and sheets

caresses or kisses, hugs or handshakes insect bite attending gyms, swimming pools, showers, saunas and baths, public places or means of transport. Causes and risk factorsThe situations that could expose you the most to the risk of contracting HIV are:

- unprotected sexual relations and with occasional partners.
- Tearing of the condom or pulling out during sexual intercourse with an occasional partner whose state of health is unknown or with HIV but not in therapy.
- Accidental contact with the blood of an infected person (this may be the case with healthcare professionals).
- Sharing syringes or needles with people whose health status is unknown or with HIV who are not on treatment.
- In cases of sexual violence in which one is forced into an unprotected relationship.

Therefore, if you have had a risky behavior or have been involuntarily exposed, it is good to undergo the test for HIV as soon as possible, no later than 48 hours. The doctor may also prescribe preventive drug treatment for a few weeks. AIDS: the stages of the disease

A person infected with the virus becomes HIV positive when tested for HIV. This means that the infection is in progress and it is therefore possible to transmit it to other people. There is a period of time between the infection and the positivization of the test (called the window period), which can be a few weeks. During this time the person may still test negative, but is capable of infecting other peopleAdvertisement

There are three stages of the disease:

first stage: the infection is in an acute state and occurs approximately 2-4 weeks after infection. Symptoms are general, non-specific, and common to those of other infections. However, it can also be a completely asymptomatic but highly contagious phasessecond stage: it is a latent phase in which the infection can become chronic.



It can last for years even in the absence of symptoms, but without treatment, the immune system progressively weakensthird stage: it is the full-blown AIDS phase, characterized by a severe deficit of the immune defenses due to the destruction of CD4 T lymphocytes by the HIV virus. The body is therefore no longer able to fight infections caused by other pathogens such as viruses, bacteria and fungi, but also tumors.

AIDS and HIV-positive: the differencesBeing HIV positive means having developed specific antibodies for HIV, detectable in the blood through the test. In other words, you have the infection and can pass it on to others.