

Questions Asked During the Live Webinar Broadcast on 10/9/13

Q: What could happen if 2 persons with HIV do not use a condom when having sex?

A: The concern would be related to mutations. If a person carries multiple mutations of the HIV virus, it can make it harder for the body to control the infection and some medications may not work. Also, if one person's viral load is higher than the other – you could potentially increase the viral load for the other. It is best to wear condoms to protect the immune system.

Q: Can I get HIV from a manicure salon if a staff member hurt me with a supply till to the point I had a blood near the site of my nail?

A: There have been no cases of HIV transfer from manicures. You would have to have blood-to-blood transfer (from the manicurist him/herself to the staff member), and since most salons are good about using alcohol and bleach – it is unlikely or not likely at all. Blood-to-blood transfer is key and HIV is much more fragile in those situations than Hepatitis C. With Hepatitis C, you still need blood-to-blood transfer and objects could be one means of transmission.