

## CAPITAL AREA OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY ASSOCIATES

### SHOULD I BE TESTED FOR AIDS?

#### Facts:

- Most cases of AIDS in children (75%) result from transmission of the virus from an infected mother.
- Children born to women who have been infected with the AIDS virus may have a 20-50% of being infected themselves. If you are HIV positive, there are medications that may dramatically decrease the risk of your child acquiring AIDS.
- Not everyone who has been exposed to the AIDS virus gets symptoms of AIDS.
- Pregnancy may increase the risk of developing AIDS symptoms in women who have been exposed to the virus.
- Breast feeding has been implicated in the spread of AIDS.

#### Recommendations:

In order to protect these unborn children from AIDS and better counsel women in their risk of acquiring and passing on the AIDS virus, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Center for Disease Control recommends that if you are pregnant or are contemplating pregnancy, you should be tested to see if you have been infected with the AIDS virus if you are in one of the following high risk groups:

1. If you have had multiple sex partners.
2. If you have symptoms of AIDS.
3. If you use or have used IV drugs.
4. If you are from a country where heterosexual transmission of AIDS occurs (central or eastern Africa or Haiti).
5. If you have engaged in prostitution.
6. If you are or have been the sex partner of:
  - a. IV drug users
  - b. Bisexual men
  - c. Men with hemophilia
  - d. Men born in one of the above countries
  - e. Men with evidence of AIDS
7. If you had a blood transfusion between 1977 and March 1985.

If you are in one of these high risk groups, we recommend that you ask your doctor for a confidential AIDS test. If you are not in a high risk group and would like the AIDS test, you may also get it.

The results of this test are highly confidential and will not be released to anyone without your specific consent. After the test is complete, we will counsel you on any risks and recommendations for your current and future pregnancy.