

identify another mode of exposure to HIV. She was a patient in the dental office from 1987 to 1989 and received prophylaxis and restorative fillings under local anesthesia.

DNA sequence analysis showed that her HIV strain had a high degree of similarity to that of the dentist and five other infected patients. The precise events resulting in HIV transmission in this practice remain unknown. Unlike the other five infected patients, this patient had neither dental extractions nor root canal therapy. Opportunities for injuries to the dentist were limited. However, exposure of this patient to the dentist's blood cannot be ruled out (eg, related to use of the anesthetic syringe).

Approximately 1,100 patients of the dentist are known to have been tested for HIV. This dental practice in Florida remains the only documented instance of HIV transmission from a healthcare worker to patients.

FROM: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *MMWR* 1993;42:320-331.

CDC Reports No HIV Infection in Patients Treated by HIV-Infected HCWs

The CDC recently reported the results of investigations of 19,036 persons treated by 57 HIV-infected healthcare workers (HCWs). No seropositive persons were reported among 11,529 patients tested from practices of 46 HCWs, including 23 dentists and dental students, 12 physicians and medical students, seven surgeons and obstetricians, and four others. For the remaining 11 HCWs, 7507 patients were tested and 92 seropositive patients were identified. Follow-up investigations have been completed for 86 (94%) of these 92 patients; eight patients were documented to be infected before receiving care from the HIV-infected HCW; 54 had established risk factors for HIV; 19 may have had opportunities for HIV exposure (ie, exchange of sex for drugs or money); and five had no risks identified. Investigations are in progress for six patients of two HCWs.

The CDC reports that the risk for transmission of a bloodborne pathogen from an HCW to a patient is associated with the circulating titer of the pathogen in the blood, the procedure performed, techniques and infection control precautions used, and the medical condition of the HCW. The cluster of six cases associated with the dental practice in Florida represents the only documented instance of HIV transmission from an HCW to patients. The data presented in this report of 57 investigated practices are consistent with previous assessments that the risk for HIV

transmission from an infected HCW to patients during invasive procedures is small and can be reduced with appropriate use of infection control precautions.

In an editorial on HIV-infected surgeons and dentists that appeared in the April 14, 1993, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Drs. Ban Mishu and William Schaffner of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, noted that although the lookback studies done to date have been important in establishing that the overall risk to patients from HIV-infected HCWs is low, these studies are unlikely to detect the infrequent highly infectious practitioner who might pose a substantially higher risk to patients. Further, they note that although the Florida dental case has been characterized as an aberration because no other cases of transmission from HCW to patients have been reported, in fact, it rather closely resembles provider-to-patient transmission of HBV, which often produces clusters of cases in the absence of obvious infection control lapses.

FROM: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *MMWR* 1993;42:320-331; Mishu B, Schaffner W. *JAMA* 1993;269:1843-1844.

OSHA Creates Office of Occupational Health Nursing

The U.S. Department of Labor announced that a new office of Occupational Health Nursing has been established to underscore the major role nurses play in striving for safe and healthful workplaces. OSHA estimates that there are 23,000 practicing occupational health nurses nationwide, representing the largest group of healthcare providers at the nation's worksites.

The new office will help the agency in developing standards, surveillance policies, and implementing education and training activities, as well as assist with field investigations and evaluation of employees' medical care and injury/illness surveillance records.

New Recommendation Calls for HBV Vaccination for All College Students

The American College Health Association (ACHA) recently recommended that all colleges and universities require hepatitis B vaccine for healthcare students and strongly urge vaccination for all college students with special attention to those at highest risk of infection. Health officials have urged colleges and universities to conduct campaigns to educate students