



Eliminating MTCT of HIV

What is the issue?

\n\n

A recent study shows complete elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV is possible.

\n\n

How HIV is transmitted to child?

\n\n

\n

- Mother-to-child transmission MTCT is the primary route of transmission of HIV among children.

\n

- Babies are infected during pregnancy, labour, delivery or while breastfeeding.

\n

\n\n

What is the status of MTCT HIV in India?

\n\n

\n

- Currently 5% of babies born to those who are HIV-positive get infected, if transmission rate is below 2% it is considered as elimination.

\n

- According to NACO, only about 52.7% of pregnant mothers seek skilled care out of an estimated 27 million pregnancies in a year.

\n

- An estimated 35,200 pregnancies occur in HIV-positive women and more than 10,300 infected babies are born annually, without any intervention.

\n

\n\n

What are the methods to prevent MTCT?

\n\n

\n

- **Multidrug Therapy** - India is following the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended 'multidrug therapy', which is a combination of three drugs — tenofovir, lamivudine and efavirenz (TLE).

\n

- Affected women need to take it all their lives and nevirapine syrup for six weeks only for their babies.

\n

- Multidrug therapy is usually adequate to drastically reduce a mother's viral load.

\n

- **Caesarean** - During a baby's journey through the vaginal passage, contact with abrasions, secretions and blood, which contain the virus, increases the risk of transmission.

\n

- Elective caesarean section and no breastfeeding will limit the transmission.

\n

\n\n

What are the challenges in India?

\n\n

\n

- Doctors recommend that HIV-positive women should not breastfeed as their milk harbours the virus.

\n

- For patients from underprivileged classes, replacing the nutrition for the baby without breastfeeding is difficult.

\n

- The enormous population in India makes it challenging for health-care workers to reach out to every pregnant woman.

\n

- On the other hand, pregnant women too often delay registering for antenatal care.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative