

Appendix 6.4

Sedurina Olga

Echo of Moscow radio in Perm

Perm

November 2, 2005

Echo of Moscow radio in Perm

PRESENTS

Song: "Let mother hear me, let mother come, let mother find me, don't let her fail. It cannot be that children are lost: children cannot be lost..."

LOST CHILDREN

This program production is supported by the Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS NGO and the Kaiser Family Foundation

I am Syoma, and I have a little brother, Styopka. We live with Mom and Dad, they love us very much. They never fight, and love each other, and me, and Styopka. They take us out to play.

Mom wakes me up, kisses me on the forehead and says it is time to get up. I open my eyes and smile, I love my Mom. Today all of us, Mom, Dad, my older brother Styopka and I, go out for a walk. The sun is shining; we are walking, my Mom carries me, and my Dad is pushing Styopka's pram.

Grandma and Grandpa visit us very often, they love us very much, they give us toys and take us for a walk. We have a lot of fun with them. We love it when we all are together, Mom, Dad, and when they play with us.

We too love our happy family!

Styopa and Syoma's family was described by their parents, Olesya and Yevgeny.

Olesya and Zhenya about a happy family

(Insert, October, 24_10 for "Lost children")

26-55

When I learned that I am HIV-positive, I never thought that I could ever be as happy as I am now. I could not even dream three years ago that all these things will happen to me – a wedding, a child, a second child, and now I am the happiest person on this planet.

27-17 27-44

In our family no one fights, or smokes, or drinks, or uses any drugs. I think that many people feel envy, my present and former acquaintances, my mother's relatives, my mother's friends say that her daughter have found her happiness... I am diagnosed with HIV, but I think that despite this diagnosis I live much better than people who are diagnosed with schizophrenia, or whose fathers are not quite healthy, or mothers. There is also alcoholism, drug addiction, and depression – that is, I have none of those, and my HIV diagnosis – I remember it only when asked either in a hospital or by reporters, I remember that I have it only then. When you get drunk every day, you remember that you are an alcoholic, and such families have substantially lesser survival chances than my family. 28-59

Music break - OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF GROWN-UPS

Today's program will tell you about one more aspect of living with HIV – about discordant couples. Discordant means a couple where one of the partners has HIV and another is not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

HIV status does not mean that you cannot have a family or give birth to a child. Another thing is that a person living with HIV should understand that his or her partner is at risk of infection. Head of Epidemiology Department at the regional AIDS prevention center tells us about it.

Guibadullin about openness

(Guibadullin's comments 2 11)

01-30

We did have cases like that, when a man and a woman live together or just see each other, and one of them tells the other about being infected. But apparently the way it is told is such that the partner misunderstands it or does not understand this at all, and later all of a sudden the girl finds out that she is HIV-positive. 01-57

A partner can be infected if a couple has unsafe sex. If a couple does not plan to have a baby, a condom must be used. It is important to protect the HIV-negative partner, and also to protect the HIV-positive person. If a person is generally healthy, it lowers the risk of HIV transmission, but there is a much more real and grave risk for a person living with HIV to contract other infectious diseases. Which is also not good for possible future children.

As you know, the ways of HIV transmission are limited. They include unsafe sex, blood or serum – most often as a result of drug abuse, and mother-to-child transmission. Cases of inpatients' infection in hospitals are also known.

If a discordant couple has long-term marriage plans, it is very important for both of them to protect their health. When such a couple decides to have a child, they should be clearly aware that there is a risk of infecting the sexual partner. This risk is higher for a woman; some sources estimate it as four to five times higher. Men are at somewhat lesser risk. Any other disease, such as inflammation of genitalia or STDs can substantially increase the risk of transmission.

A couple with HIV or a discordant couple must prepare very carefully to having a child. All measures must be taken to prevent HIV transmission through sex or from mother to child.

One of preventive methods used around the world is called sperm washing. It guarantees the risk reduction of almost 100 percent, but it is quite expensive, and most couples cannot afford it.

Nevertheless, all necessary medical assistance can be provided, including prevention and necessary treatment for pregnant women and newly born children. By this token, the risk of virus transmission can be significantly reduced, but medics believe that none of these methods work in 100 percent of cases. So the couple must understand very clearly that if they want to have a child, they are taking risk. Future mother must undergo therapy. The woman and the future child's father have to approach the process of having a child in a very rational and serious way.

And in case when a couple is not involved in steady relationship, then partners must think about safer sex methods regardless of their HIV status. Especially today, when the rate of sexual HIV transmission grows, and many people have no idea that they should get tested for HIV. Moreover, Russian Federation laws provide for punishment in case of intentional HIV transmission. Rashid Gabdullin speaks.

05-27

More and more people here get infected through sex. Naturally, they want to continue their sexual activity somehow. If they keep having sex and do not warn their partners about infection, this is a crime. There is an article in the Criminal Code which stipulates sanctions up to a prison sentence for infecting your partner.

05-27

HIV-negative people must remember and understand that a person diagnosed with HIV develops psychological problems, and loneliness is the most serious of them. A person feels alienated, an outcast of some sort, because a common opinion about people living with HIV is rather negative.

07-02

When HIV had just emerged in Russia, that is, in the Soviet Union at that time, then our propaganda, our health awareness program was misdirecting people to an extent. AIDS was positioned as a scare, they were calling it the plague of the 20th century, and saying that it is horrible. So people started fearing not AIDS but rather people infected with HIV.

07-22 07-28

Comparing AIDS with plague is totally inaccurate,

07-31 07-42

AIDS is an entirely different problem; this is a slow infection, its ways of transmission are very specific, and specific conditions are required to get infected; it is not that easy to contract HIV.
07-56

Nevertheless, the life goes on. And societal attitudes change, including attitude towards people living with HIV. If people have sufficient information about their disease, they can continue a normal life, plan a family, and have children.

Yusefovich about relationship

(Yusefovich's commentary 01 11)

01-39

She treats me as a human being; she does not judge me by what I have in my bloodstream ...

01-45

01-50

When love is actually much stronger than a diagnosis. If you have love, then you do not fear death.

02-03... 02-17

As for my diagnosis, I told her right away, because our relationship was just beginning, and my girlfriend's health and safety was my responsibility, of course, I was obligated to tell her, although that was not easy, but I realized that if I don't tell her now, in the future this dishonesty can destroy our relationship.

02-39... 03-02

But she was only more attracted by honesty and by courage.

03-05

SIGN-OFF TUNE – "Baby Mammoth"

In our following programs we will discuss such aspects related to children living with HIV as laws regulating adoption of HIV-positive babies; psychology of children affected by the epidemic; governmental programs supporting guardianship and trusteeship; the step-by-step process of adopting a child with HIV; and many others.

Listen to us in a week.

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