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## THE DOC IS IN: Can An HIV-Positive Man Father Children?

Posted May 8th 2007 1:56PM by [Angela Bronner](#)  
Filed under: [AIDS: 25 Years and Counting](#)



At '25 Years and Counting' our lively discussion forum (i.e., the comments section) provides plenty of good insight, information and sometimes, questions around HIV and AIDS.

Some questions I try to answer, but some need to be deferred to a medical professional.

**Dr. Rani G. Whitfield, MD**, also known as Tha Hip Hop Doc (H2D), has a general practice in Baton Rouge, LA and also works in high schools and in prisons. He has appeared on BET's '106th and Park' dispensing medical advice and has a chapter in the book, '[Not In My Family](#)' -- a collection of essays on AIDS in the African-American community.

Our question this time comes from Darnell, who posted on [HIV and Pregnancy](#) (#52):

*"Negative children born to positive mothers is definitely a gift from God. I'm young a professional black male, diagnosed with HIV three years ago. My hopes for fathering a child have been shattered, is there anything out there for HIV+ men who want to become biological fathers?"*

### H2D Responds:

*Several studies have been done on relationships where one partner is positive and the other is negative. This is called mixed status or HIV discordant couples. Even if the HIV (+) partner has a healthy immune or defense system (low viral load and good CD4 count), the possibility of infecting the HIV (-) person is still very real.*



*A baby can only be HIV positive if his/her mother is HIV positive. Medicines, such as AZT, can be used during child birth to prevent the virus from spreading to the baby. However, mixed status couples that continue to have unprotected sex in an attempt to "get pregnant" run the risk of infecting both mom AND baby.*

*Unfortunately, at this time, there are not many options. I strongly recommend condom use (male and/or female) during sex between mixed status couples. Great question. Lets stay Hip-Hop Healthy!*

Continue to submit your questions via your comments in the blog.

For more on Dr. Rani G. Whitfield, M.D., please visit his Web site: [www.h2doc.com](http://www.h2doc.com)

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## Reader Comments

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1. My best friend had a baby girl who just turned 1. He and the baby's mother are both HIV positive. So far the baby is HIV negative

although she has sickle cell.

andrea at [9:04PM](#) on May 8th 2007

2. I had a friend who has full blown A.I.D.S and he father a child with a girl who was hiv positive. The baby was born healthy and the mother had to take some medication while she was pregnant. After the baby was born the baby had to take some medicine and when the baby was around six month old she was taken off the medicine. I do not know how the baby is doing now, but it is possible for the baby to be born healthy.

Kiely at [11:50PM](#) on May 8th 2007

3. what time in the month a woman is fertile to have a baby is it after her menstruation or before her menstruation.my friend told me geritol can make a woman fertile to have a baby is that true

nikki coleman at [12:37AM](#) on May 9th 2007

4. I'm not a physician, but my understanding of HIV is that this is a virus. Is a virus a part of our DNA and is it transferred at birth? An infected partner is always at some risk to transmit the disease, but on what level is this disease a part of our system? I haven't heard anyone discuss HIV as a part of our chromosomes; therefore it might be possible to father a child without HIV infection. I'm not HIV positive and I don't want to know, but we must assume everyone is potentially infected. How can anyone prove that the infection came from one person or the other. What's more significant is the fact that people want healthy babies. Why would anyone try to father a child if they know they are infected? What woman would willingly allow herself to be infected or placed at risk in an experiment to assess blame? Dumb question! Why would Blacks waste our time talking about such selfish things?

Cecil Jones at [11:13AM](#) on May 9th 2007

5. I read years back that they can do sperm washing and basically, fertilization is done in vitro. So there is hope for hiv + males who wants to become a father. I am sure this procedure is very expensive but it is out there. Do a search on google for hiv + and sperm washing. Thanks Pj

PJ at [11:14AM](#) on May 9th 2007

6. This comment is a responce to cecil jones. I think you ask some wonderful questions, but i feel as if you become ignorant later on in your statement. Sweetie, education is a necessity. No one is selfish for wanting to bring another life into this world. Having a baby is one of the most beautiful things, and any one should be able to have one. HIV is serious, and yes, infected people do have children. I do not think u should call black people selfish.

mo clark at [11:33AM](#) on May 9th 2007

7. listen i understand that you might want to have a baby even thought you are hi v positive but aren't you scared that later on down the line after that child is born that he might get it? even thought it might not show up until 10 years later that child is going to be upset because they were born with a disease that they have to live with for the rest of there lives. trust me i know it happened to me and im 32.

djones at [11:36AM](#) on May 9th 2007

8. Unfortunately your dreams as father has been shattered however you may still have the opporunity to find an already made family that is willing to accept and love you. HIV positive is a serious matter and for you to infect someone else for the sake of having a child is plain crazy. Sorry Adoption is alway and option.

Diamonds2 at [9:53AM](#) on May 10th 2007

9. I am glad that this issue is being discussed openly, it has been a taboo subject for years in the AA community. I am glad the gentle brought his question to the for front to be open;y discussed to see how others are feeling that are coping with the diease. I am an AIDS activist and my status is negative but I see so many others coping with this and I feel that it is my duty to educate and learn in the process. GOD BLESSS

P.S djones May I ask what happened? I don't understand your statement

Sharon at [12:52PM](#) on May 10th 2007

10. Its all about PROTECTION.. if one who is HIV+ having thoughts about bringing children into this world with someone who is negative consenting adults..WHAT'S THE PROBLEM??.just be responsible enough to take care of that child if he/she is positive after its birth.. more CAREFUL if both are positive then someone end up with a different strain of HIV from what I understand can cause other major problems..PROTECT the UNBORN as well as yourself. P.S..Pj think your comment is an excellent option and Djones I don't get yours tell us more.. sound like you need to educate yourself.

Horace Nichols at [4:32PM](#) on May 10th 2007

11. I just have a question, not related to the above mentioned topic. I have a significant other that has expressed his interest in how homosexuality is. What the bible says on it? Can you born with homosexual genes (tendencies)? And just a lot of questions that I feel that are inappropriate for a "straight" man that does not express any interest at all. Could he be "interested, confused, or what?" Please respond.

TheTruth38125@aol.com at [9:51PM](#) on May 10th 2007

12. what are the basic signs of people that may be infected

Mildred Ford at [2:56AM](#) on May 11th 2007

13. FIRST OF ALL IT IS POSSIBLE FOR AN HIV POSITIVE MAN TO FATHER A CHILD AS WELL AS AN HIV MOTHER; THE CONCERN SHOULD BE WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO? KNOWING THAT THE END RESULT OF YOUR CONDITION WILL BE DEATH. KNOW THAT YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PHYSICALLY, FINANCALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY SUPPORT THAT CHILD IN THE LONG RUN. PLUS THE EFFECTS IT WILL HAVE ON THAT CHILD KNOWING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.

SIMONA COLLIER at [12:25PM](#) on May 12th 2007

14. I have read all these comments and I am a father of an HIV negative baby girl. Her mother is positive. Before my one year old daughter was conceived her mother T-CELL COUNTS and vial load was around 1,00 and viral load undetectable so we knew that with that and medication or baby would be born negative. We also put faith and God to.

I saw comments about people being HIV positive wanting to have children being selfish and how they will eventually die. It has been proven that people are now living their hold lives and is like going out their and getting hit by a car you can loose your life unexpectedly so that comment is senseless.

Finally I believe that most in here and in the world will never understand HOW IT IS TO BE HIV POSITIVE BUT I WILL HELP YYOU. It IS LIKE BEING A BLACK PERSON AND America.

<http://groups.msn.com/AidsInTheBlackCommunities>

[positivepower](#) at [10:14AM](#) on May 13th 2007

15. Being a wife of a man that is HIV positive, I have to say it is very difficult and straining on the marriage, since condoms are ALWAYS required now. I am thankful to God we had our children BEFORE he became infected. Considering the blessing that God spared me with the disease, I am thankful to Him every day and with that in mind, condoms are not so bad after all. I, however, would NOT risk getting infected to have a child if I didn't have kids already. Life is too short and I see what my husband goes through every day, not to mention we have had to pay 1700/mo for the past 5 months out of pocket for his medications. It has required selling off items we own just to keep him alive every day.

melabbo at [8:03AM](#) on May 14th 2007

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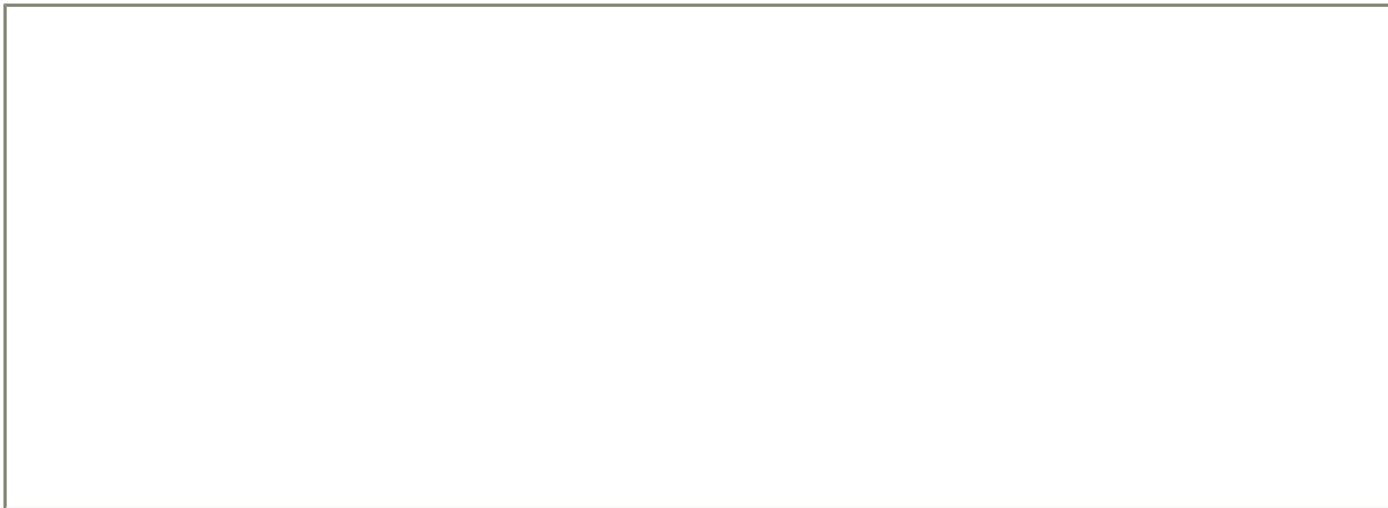
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