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INFECTIOUS DISEASES BOARD REVIEW MANUAL

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Management of HIV-Positive Pregnant Women and Exposed Infants

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Table of Contents

Preface	ii
Introduction	1
Primary Care of HIV-Infected Pregnant Women	2
Management of HIV-Exposed Infants	7
Board Review Questions	8
Answers	9
References	9

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I. INTRODUCTION

Human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection is estimated to affect 120,000 to 160,000 women in the United States.¹ The greatest proportion of AIDS cases in the United States is among persons ages 25 to 44 years. In 1997, AIDS was the second leading cause of death among African American women in that age group and the fourth leading cause of death for all women ages 25 to 44 years in the United States.¹ Women and adolescents are currently at highest risk of developing HIV-1 infection, particularly those living in poverty and who are of African American or Hispanic descent.² Heterosexual transmission is the major route

of infection. Thus, the distribution of HIV-1 infection has disproportionately affected women during their childbearing years.

Annually, more than 600,000 infants are infected with HIV throughout the developing world. In the United States, approximately 6000 infants are born to HIV-infected women annually, and fewer than 300 of these will become infected. Perinatal transmission has been significantly reduced since 1994 with the incorporation

DEDICATION

This volume of the *Infectious Diseases Board Review Manual* is dedicated to the memory of J. Boyd Francis, MD.