

Dilemma 4: The HIV-Positive Patient

Mrs H. has been your patient for four years. Recent testing shows that she is HIV positive. She has asked you, under no circumstances, to disclose her HIV status to anyone. A few weeks later, her husband joins the practice and discusses having a vasectomy so that he no longer needs to use condoms for birth control. You realise, during your conversation with Mr H, which he is unaware of his wife's HIV status or the risk that poses for him. When you try to urge Mrs H. to disclose her condition to her husband, she refuses, saying that she will do so when she 'is ready'.

