

HIV raises anal cancer risk in women, study says

16 April 2012



Findings indicate gay men aren't only ones who need screening.

(HealthDay) -- Women with HIV are at increased risk for anal cancer, a new study finds.

Researchers at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City looked at 715 HIV-infected women and found that 10.5 percent had some form of anal disease and about one-third of those women had precancerous disease.

"Anal cancer was widely associated with HIV-infected men who have sex with men. But now, this study reveals anal precancerous disease in a high proportion of women with HIV," Dr. Mark Einstein, director of [clinical research](#) in the division of gynecologic oncology and a professor at [Albert Einstein](#) College of Medicine, said in a Montefiore news release.

The increased risk of anal cancer in HIV-infected women is likely because HIV is associated with [human papillomavirus](#) (HPV), which causes nearly all anal cancers, the researchers said.

The study appears May 1 in the *Journal of AIDS*.

The researchers said their findings suggest that all HIV-infected women who have abnormal findings

on tests of anal [tissue samples](#) should be referred for high resolution anoscopy, a visual examination of the inside of the anus.

In addition, all HIV-infected women and men should be considered for anal cancer screening, the researchers said.

More information: The U.S. National Cancer Institute has more about [anal cancer](#).

Copyright © 2012 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

APA citation: HIV raises anal cancer risk in women, study says (2012, April 16) retrieved 30 June 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-04-hiv-anal-cancer-women.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.