



Impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder on HIV Risk



Key Question

Does fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) increase the risk of acquiring HIV due to both substance use and behaviour and impulse issues?

What We Found

Despite a thorough search of the literature (as discussed below under “What We Did”), we were unable to find any systematic reviews or articles which directly discuss the impact of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) on the risk of HIV transmission.

What We Did

To identify any systematic reviews we first conducted hand searches of the reviews and protocols from the HIV/AIDS and Drugs and Alcohol Cochrane review groups and searched www.health-evidence.ca (hand searched the ‘acquired immunodeficiency syndrome’, ‘HIV’ and ‘alcohol abuse/use’ categories). To locate additional reviews and primary literature we then searched Medline and Embase using combinations of relevant MeSH terms¹. Lastly, we searched the Cochrane Library, CINAHL and DARE a similar combination of text terms². We also contact researchers working in the area of HIV and addiction.

MeSH terms searched: (HIV or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) AND Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Text terms searched: HIV AND Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

EVIDENCE INTO ACTION

The OHTN Rapid Response Service offers HIV/AIDS programs and services in Ontario quick access to research evidence to help inform decision making, service delivery and advocacy.

In response to a question from the field, the Rapid Response Team reviews the scientific and grey literature, consults with experts, and prepares a brief fact sheet summarizing the current evidence and its implications for policy and practice.

Suggested Citation:

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