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No pre-chewed food for babies if caregiver has HIV

In the US recently, there were three cases of infants being infected with HIV, although initial blood tests were negative and they were not breastfed by their HIV-positive mothers. Further investigation found that the only possible source of infection was pre-chewed food. Two cases involved pre-chewing by an HIV-infected mother and the other by an HIV-infected aunt who was the caregiver. Lead investigator of the study, Dr Aditya Gaur, of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, said the source of infection could have been mouth bleeding in both the caregiver and the infant (teething or infection). HIV-positive caregivers should be cautioned not to give pre-chewed food to infants, said Dr Gaur.