

Vignette shell

Pavlos, a 25-year-old graduate from the Department of Primary Education, agreed to meet with us and answer some of our questions.

Researcher: How did you learn that you were diagnosed with HIV?

Pavlos: My doctor informed me. He asked me to undergo several tests, including one for HIV. I must say he communicated the results tactfully, but it is very difficult to accept that you are carrying the virus.

Researcher: How do you think you became infected?

Pavlos: That was the first thing I thought about. It happened to me last year; eh... [*insert the appropriate quote according to the experimental condition*]

- a) **Heterosexual:** I had a relationship with a woman, and we had sex.
- b) **Homosexual:** I had a relationship with a man, and we had sex.
- c) **IV Drug User:** I took heroin with friends, using the same syringe.
- d) **Transfused:** I had a severe hemorrhage following an accident and needed to receive a blood transfusion.

Researcher: Are you certain about your mode of transmission?

Pavlos: Yes, I am now sure. I initially checked that all my previous partners had tested negative. I later learned that [*insert the appropriate quote according to the experimental condition*] was HIV-positive. The doctors are certain. That's how I got infected.

- a) **Heterosexual:** the woman I mentioned before
- b) **Homosexual:** the man I mentioned before
- c) **IV Drug User:** one of the people in the group we shared an IV with
- d) **Transfused:** the blood

Researcher: And what about your life today?

Pavlos: Everything has changed. Suddenly, my life was turned upside down. Now, I am trying to pick up the broken pieces and start anew, while constantly asking myself the same question: 'Why me?'