



What Are *HIV* and *AIDS*

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What is HIV (Human immunodeficiency Virus)?

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. It is the virus that can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS, if not treated. Unlike some other viruses, the human body cannot get rid of HIV completely, even with treatment. Thus, an HIV infection lasts for whole lifetime.

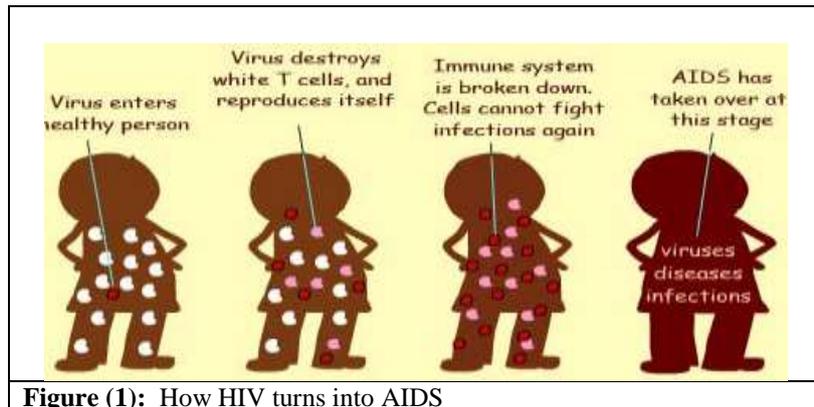
How HIV attacks the body?

HIV attacks the body's immune system, specifically the CD4 cells (T cells), which help the immune system fight off infections. Untreated, HIV reduces the number of CD4 cells (T cells) in the body, making the person more likely to get other infections or infection-related cancers.

What is AIDS (Immune Deficiency Syndrome)?

AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome; it's also called advanced HIV infection or late-stage HIV. AIDS is a set of symptoms and illnesses that develop as a result of advanced HIV infection which has destroyed the immune system. *Fewer people develop AIDS now because treatment for HIV means that more people are staying well.*

AIDS is a set of symptoms (or syndrome as opposed to a virus) caused by HIV. A person is said to have AIDS when their immune system is too weak to fight off infection, and they develop certain defining symptoms and illnesses.



What is the HIV effective cure?

No effective cure currently exists, but with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled. The medicine used to treat HIV is called *antiretroviral therapy* or *ART*. If taken the

right way every day, this medicine can dramatically prolong the lives of many people infected with HIV, keep them healthy, and greatly lower their chance of infecting others.

References:

Adopted from online accessed on 22 at:

- 1) <http://www.eschooltoday.com/hiv-aids/what-is-hiv-aids.html>.
- 2) <https://www.avert.org/about-hiv-aids/what-hiv-aids>
- 3) <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/about-hiv-and-aids/what-are-hiv-and-aids>
- 4) <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/world-aids-day>

- 5) <https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv-aids/fact-sheets/19/45/hiv-aids--the-basics>

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