infovihtal #61

the basics: how treatment works

HIV treatment helps you stay well by reducing the amount of HIV in your body.

All anti-HIV drugs try to prevent HIV infecting new cells. But different types of drugs do this in different ways.

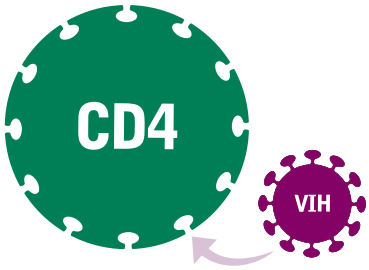
A combination of two different types of drugs provides a powerful attack on HIV.

The aim of treatment is an 'undetectable viral load' – very low levels of HIV in the blood.

Here's how HIV infects cells in the body. The different drugs interfere with different parts of the process.

1

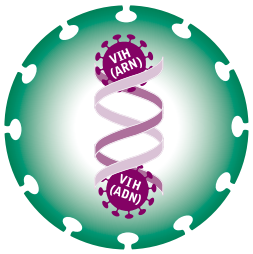
HIV attaches itself to a CD4 cell. CD4 cells are an important part of our immune system, the body's defence system.



Drugs called **'entry inhibitors'** try to stop this happening.

2

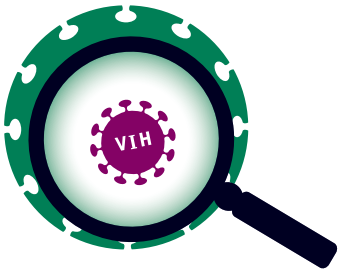
Inside the cell, HIV changes its structure.



Drugs called **'nukes'** and **'non-nukes'** prevent this.

3

HIV hides itself deeper in the cell.



'Integrase inhibitors' stop this happening.

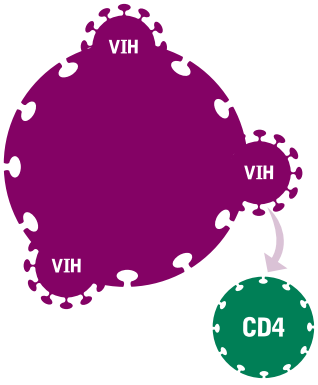
4

More HIV is produced.

The **'protease inhibitor'** (PI) drugs try to prevent this happening.

5

The new HIV pushes out from the cell, and moves on to find other cells to infect.



Important points

- **Each type of drug blocks HIV in a different way.**
- **We take a combination of several drugs to give a strong attack on HIV.**
- **The aim of treatment is to have as little HIV as possible.**

Notes

Entry inhibitors

- These include CCR5 inhibitors and fusion inhibitors.

'Nukes' and 'non-nukes'

- The correct scientific name for 'nukes' is nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs, for short). The scientific name for 'non-nukes' is non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs).

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POR FAVOR, FOTOCÓPIALO Y HAZLO CIRCULAR

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