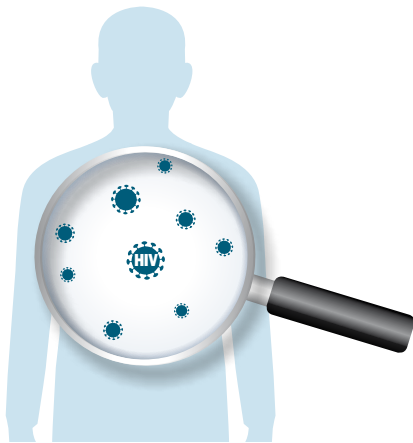


When HIV is 'drug resistant' this means that some anti-HIV drugs do not work properly.

1 Every day, HIV tries to infect cells and produce more HIV.



2 Anti-HIV drugs stop this happening. If you always take your pills at the right time and in the right amounts, there will be very little HIV in your body.



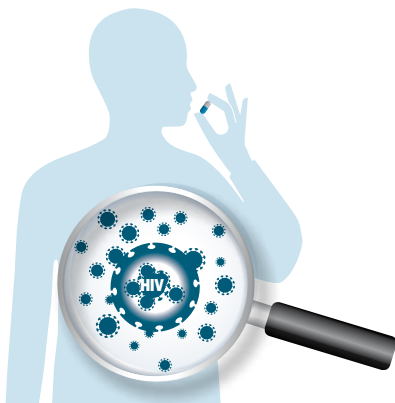
3 If you sometimes forget to take your pills, or take them late, then more HIV will be produced.

- HIV will then be able to infect new cells and produce more HIV.
- The HIV may become 'drug resistant'.



4 If HIV becomes drug resistant, this means that the anti-HIV drugs you are taking at the moment won't work properly.

- Even when you take your pills, HIV will be able to infect cells and produce more HIV.
- There will be more and more HIV in your body.



5 If this happens you will need to change your treatment.



! The next set of drugs may not be as easy to take and could have more side effects.

Important points

- It's important to always take your pills at the right time and in the right amounts.
- Otherwise HIV may become drug resistant. This means that some anti-HIV drugs do not work properly.
- If you have drug resistance, you may need to change the anti-HIV drugs you take.

Note

It's possible to have drug resistance without ever taking anti-HIV drugs. This is because drug-resistant HIV can be transmitted, for example during sex without a condom.



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