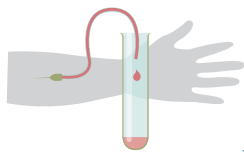


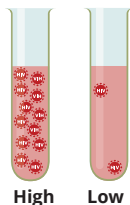
## UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD



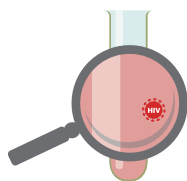
The aim of HIV treatment is to have a viral load that is 'undetectable'. But what does that mean and why is it important?



01 A viral load test tells you **how much HIV** there is in a drop of blood.

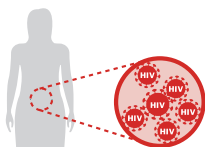


02 Test results give you a good idea of whether the amount of HIV is higher or lower.



[Undetectable (very low)]

03 However, the tests can't measure very small amounts of HIV. When you have very little HIV, you will be told that your viral load is 'undetectable'. This means that there was so little HIV in one sample of blood that the test couldn't find any.



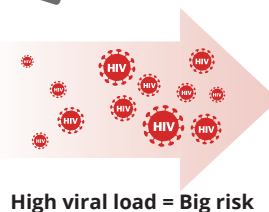
04 It doesn't mean that HIV has disappeared entirely. It will still be present in other parts of your body, like the gut.



05 The aim of HIV treatment is to have an undetectable viral load. This means that HIV is being kept under control.



06 An undetectable viral load massively reduces your risk of passing HIV on.



Undetectable viral load = Extremely low risk

## 07 IMPORTANT POINTS

- If your viral load result is undetectable, there is only a little HIV in your body. This means that HIV is being kept under control.
- An undetectable viral load shows that HIV treatment is working and that the risk of passing HIV on is extremely low.

## 08 NOTES

### Why it's good to have an undetectable viral load

If you have very little HIV, it won't be able to attack and weaken your immune system, which is the body's natural defence system.

If your immune system is strong, you are less likely to get infections and illnesses.

An undetectable viral load reduces your risk of passing on HIV.

gt grupo de trabajo sobre tratamientos del VIH  
ENTIDAD DECLARADA DE UTILIDAD PÚBLICA  
ONG DE DESARROLLO

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