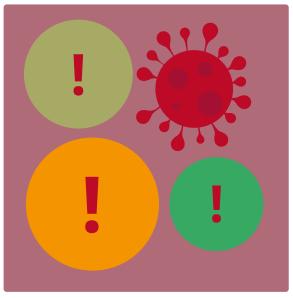


The human immune system protects the body against foreign agents that may cause illnesses. Cells are an essential part of this system. They travel through the blood to fight infections anywhere in the body. Each cell plays a different role.

IMMUNE SYSTEM CELLS







ETIS

B CELLS

These produce antibodies, which are small substances (proteins) that block viruses or other microorganisms and alert other immune cells of the presence of an invasive agent.

CD8+T CELLS

These destroy body cells damaged and/or infected by viruses, bacteria or other pathogens. They also destroy cancer cells when they recognise them.

CD4+ T CELLS

These coordinate the immune response by means of chemicals that prompt the creation of antibodies by the B cells and an attack on pathogens by macrophages and CD8+ T cells. These are the main cells attacked by HIV.

MACROPHAGES

These ingest pathogens or toxins to destroy them by means of chemical substances. HIV can also infect these cells and remain inside them.

OTHER IMMUNE CELLS

Dendritic cells

They have a similar function to macrophages. HIV can infect them and remain inside them.

Neutrophils

They ingest and destroy bacteria and other pathogens that could cause opportunistic infections.

NK cells

These are able to recognise and destroy infected cells (which is similar to the action of CD8+ T cells, although less selective).

Basophils and eosinophils.

These are involved in inflammation and in attacking parasites, respectively.

