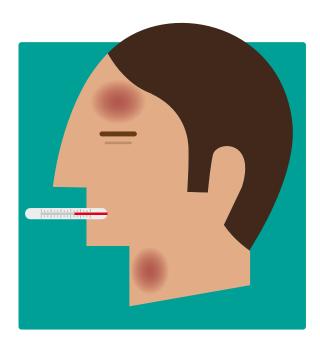


PRIMARY HIV

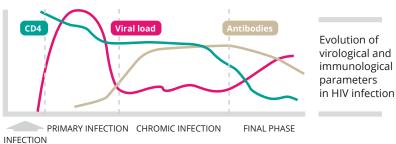






The first 6 months from the time when HIV enters the body is considered primary infection (also known as acute infection).

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING PRIMARY INFECTION?



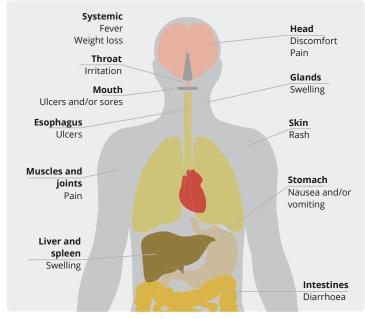
HIV initially starts reproducing without control and can reach very high levels of viral load (amount of virus in the blood).

Eventually, the body starts responding to the infection and makes antibodies, which reduces the viral load.

## SYMPTOMS OF PRIMARY INFECTION

These symptoms take several days or weeks to appear from the time the virus is acquired and can last up to 2 weeks. Many people, however, do not notice anything during this phase. They are generally non-specific symptoms that could be confused with those of flu or of other common infectious illnesses. The most frequent symptoms are fever, swollen glands, skin rashes, ulcers or sores on the mouth and/or in the throat, and muscle or joint pain.

## MAIN SYMPTOMS OF ACUTE HIV INFECTION



## TREATMENT DURING PRIMARY INFECTION

Many studies indicate that the start of treatment during this phase may have a beneficial impact on health in the medium and long term. However, many people may find it hard to make decisions about starting treatment when they have only recently been diagnosed.