

HOW TREATMENT WORKS



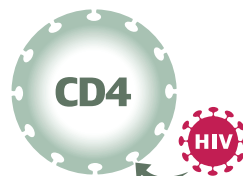
HIV treatment helps you stay well by reducing the amount of HIV in your body.

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

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

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

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



01

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



Drugs called '**CCR5 inhibitors**' try to stop this happening.

02

Inside the cell, HIV changes its structure.

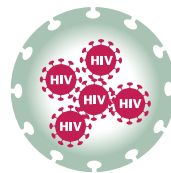
Drugs called '**nukes**' and '**non-nukes**' prevent this.



03

HIV hides itself deeper in the cell.

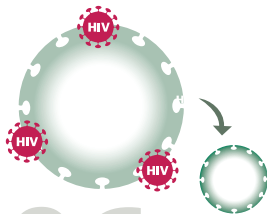
'**Integrase inhibitors**' stop this happening.



04

More HIV is produced.

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



05

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

06

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.

07

NOTES

'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).

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

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