

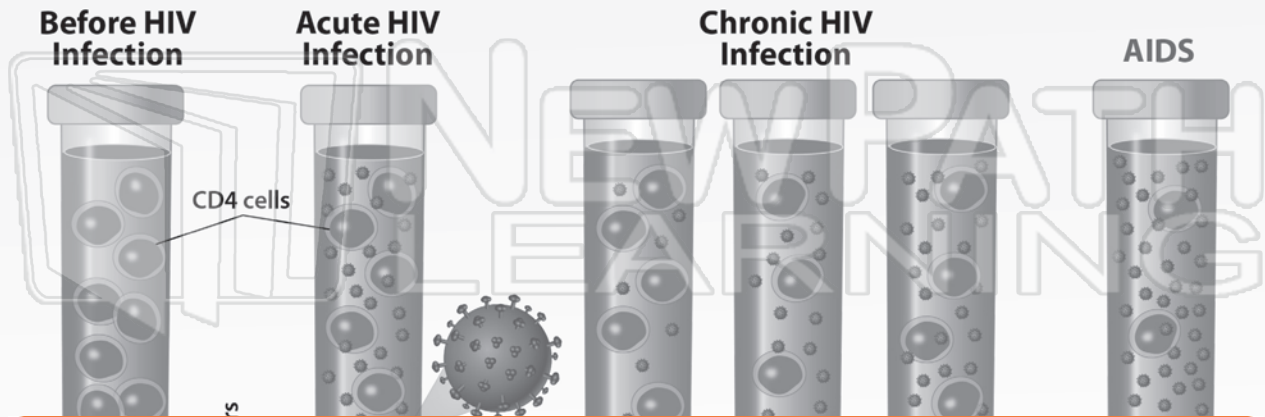


Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Stages of HIV Infection

Without treatment, HIV infection advances in stages, getting worse over time. HIV gradually destroys the immune system and eventually causes **Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**.

There are three stages of HIV infection:



PREVIEW

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toxoplasmosis, and tuberculosis (TB). Without treatment, people with AIDS typically survive about 3 years.

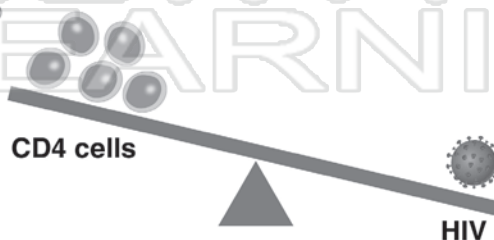
How is HIV monitored?

In addition to other general health tests, **blood tests** will be used to monitor a patient with HIV infection. These test results will help the health care provider decide whether they should make changes to a patient's treatment.

You want your CD4 count to be **HIGH**

CD4 Cell Count

CD4 cells are specialized cells that destroy HIV. The higher the **CD4** count, the healthier your immune system.



Also called an HIV RNA test, tracks how many HIV particles are in a sample of blood.

HIV Load Test

You want your viral load to be **LOW**



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Stages of HIV Infection

There are three stages of HIV infection:



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How is HIV monitored?

CD4 Count _____

Viral Load Test _____

