



# HIV

## Human Immunodeficiency Virus

### Objectives:

- Name the virus that causes AIDS
- Differentiate between AIDS and HIV
- Discuss at least two actions to prevent getting HIV



# HIV

## Definition

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-  
A virus that steadily weakens the body's immune system until it can no longer fight off infections such as pneumonia, diarrhea, tumors and other illnesses.



# HIV

## Causes

- Pathogens are disease causing organisms
- The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus responsible for causing AIDS or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- A patient can be HIV positive and not have AIDS



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## Treatment

- Antiretroviral Medication only attacks but cannot kill the virus
- No medication has yet been created that can kill a virus and not destroy the cell it has attacked
- There is no vaccine to prevent the infection caused by the HIV virus



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## Risk Factors

- **Unprotected Sexual Activity**
- **Sharing Needles or Syringes**
- **Medical Conditions**
- **Medical Procedures**
- **Being a Health Care Worker**



# Prevention

- Practice safe sex
- Do not have sex with someone who is infected with HIV
- Reduce your number of sex partners
- Do not share intravenous (IV) needles, syringes, cookers, cotton, cocaine spoons, or eyedroppers with others if you use drugs.



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## Intervention

### **HIV positive**

- **Tell your sex partner or partners about your behavior and whether you are HIV positive**
- **Follow safe sex practices, such as using condoms**
- **Do not donate blood, plasma, semen, body organs, or body tissues**
- **Do not share personal items, such as toothbrushes, razors, or sex toys, that may be contaminated with blood, semen, or vaginal fluids**



# HIV

- It is very likely that we will never know exactly how and when HIV and AIDS originated
- Scientists are investigating different theories, but the emphasis is on finding a vaccine to prevent the disease and a cure to save people already affected by HIV





## Review questions

- 1. What is the name of the virus that causes AIDS?
- 2. What does AIDS stand for?
- 3. Is it possible to be HIV positive and not have AIDS? Explain your answer.
- What can you do to prevent getting HIV?