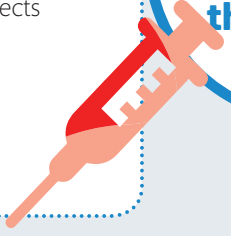


What is the immune system?

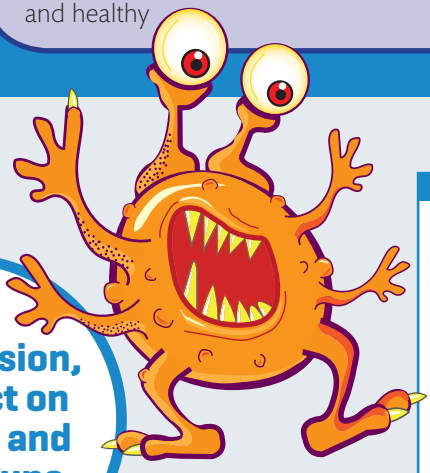
The immune system is the part of the body which protects us from illnesses. It is made up of different cells which work together to protect us from illness. They keep us strong and healthy



HIV is transmitted from one person infected with HIV to another person through unprotected sex, breastfeeding, or use of sharp objects



HIV Transmission, the effect on the body and the immune response



HIV is a virus. Viruses are germs. Some other well known viruses are flu or measles. Like other viruses, HIV cannot survive by itself so it enters the human body which it uses like a factory, to survive and multiply.



When HIV enters the body the virus cannot multiply by itself. So it uses the cells of the human body like a factory to make more HIV. HIV attaches itself to the CD4 cells of the immune system and uses them to make more HIV. Over time, more and more HIV is made and the viral load increases.

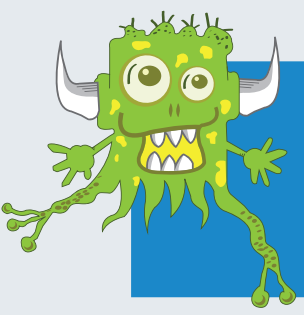


Without treatment, HIV uses the CD4 cells to make more HIV. It also damages the CD4 cells in the process. The warriors become weak and few in number. The immune system is no longer able to fight off infections

What is the immune system?



CD4 cells are a part of the immune system that fights off infections. Sometimes we call them warriors or super heroes



An opportunistic infection is an infection which takes advantage of an opportunity not normally available, such as a weak immune system. Opportunistic infections may be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi or protozoa



Did You Know

Did you know that we measure viral load? This is the amount of HIV in a drop of blood. The viral load result shows whether the ARV medicines are controlling HIV or not