

CHAPTER 23, LESSONS 3 & 4

- I. **Human Immunodeficiency Virus** is passed only by person to person transmission including mother to baby and causes AIDS (**takes between 10–12 yrs w/o meds.**). HIV has many strands and is a **retro-virus**. A person is defined with AIDS when their **T-cell count is 200 or below/micro-liter of blood** or when they have an opportunistic disease/infection (W/ being HIV positive).
- II. HIV takes control of the Immune System by:
 - Attaching to and taking control of the T-cells
 - HIV uses the cell to reproduce (making copies of itself) and killing the cell when complete
 - Over time without meds. HIV will use up most/all of the T-cells leaving the immune system unable to recognize other infections and signal **B-Cells to produce antibodies(special proteins)** to help recover
 - These other infections or diseases are what cause the individual to die usually called
- III. Opportunistic diseases

Tuberculosis
Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia
Kaposi Sarcoma
AIDS Wasting Syndrome
AIDS Dementia Complex
Thrush of the mouth
Cervical Cancer
Blindness

*****What is extremely important is that a patient keeps track of their T-Cell count vs. their viral load*****

IV. Blood, semen, vaginal secretion, breast milk:

- a. Sex
- b. IV, IM drugs
- c. Tattoos/ piercing
- d. Physical fights and punching
- e. Peri-natal transmission (mom to baby)(pregnancy or nursing)
- f. Blood transfusions <1% chance

V. Testing and treatment:

Testing by clinic or private doctor. Testing the blood or cells.
The test looks for **HIV antibodies which can take 6-12 weeks** to appear after transmission.

HIV Positive = Yes

HIV Negative = No

Tests include:

- ELISA
- Western Blot
- Orasure Western Blot
- Oraquick

Treatment is usually called HAART – Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (slows HIV reproduction, Keep T-Cells alive, and helps boost T-Cells)

- AZT – can also prevent mom to baby transmission
- **Protease Inhibitors – seal the cell from being destroyed**
- **Fuzeon Inhibitors – keep the HIV from attaching (newest)**

V. PREVENTION

- Abstinence
- Avoid blood contact and sexual fluid contact (UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS)
- Knowing personal histories (sex & drugs)
- Latex or polyurethane condoms
- Avoid drug use (needle & alcohol)
- Check ups
- Acting responsible