

Facts about HIV Vaccine Research

What is a Vaccine?

- A vaccine is a drug that prevents people from getting a disease, like hepatitis or polio.



- There is **NO** vaccine for HIV

HIV Vaccine Research

- Researchers are testing whether new medications can prevent HIV
- These research studies are called **Experimental HIV Vaccine Studies** or HIV Vaccine Clinical Trials
- For each study, researchers do not know if the vaccine works until the study is over



Researchers test whether the new vaccine works by comparing its effects to a placebo

- Half the people who agree to participate receive the experimental vaccine

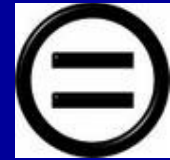


- Half receive a placebo (a sugar pill or an injection that does not contain any medicine)



Randomization

- Everyone who volunteers has an equal chance of being in the experimental vaccine or placebo group.
- This is called randomization and it is like a coin toss. Neither volunteers nor researchers can choose which group people will be in.
- Neither the volunteer or the researchers know who is getting the vaccine or placebo until the study is over.



Side Effects of the Vaccine

- Side effects from the experimental vaccine are usually short-term and mild such as arm soreness, fever, headache or tiredness.



Who Can Participate?

- Because the purpose of a experimental vaccine is to prevent people from getting HIV,
- Only people who are HIV negative can participate.
- Therefore, to qualify to be in the study everyone must take an HIV test.

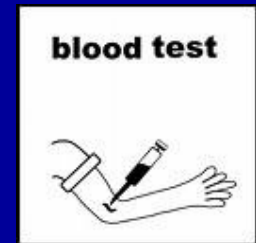


What Can I Expect if I Participate?

- Experimental vaccine studies usually last for 1 or 2 years and requires about 6 – 20 visits.



- Most visits require participants to take a blood test and visits last anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours.



- Participants are paid between \$50 - \$150 or more a visit depending on how long the visit lasts.



How Will Researchers Know Whether the Vaccine Works?

Blood tests will tell whether people getting the vaccine build up antibodies that can fight the HIV virus



At the end of the study researchers will see whether people who received the vaccine were less likely to get HIV than those who received the placebo.



The Vaccine DOES NOT Contain the HIV Virus

- The vaccine is made from artificial material and does not contain the HIV virus. The vaccine is designed to make the body build up its own defenses against the HIV virus.



YOU CANNOT GET HIV FROM THE VACCINE

YOU CANNOT TRANSMIT HIV TO OTHERS IF
YOU TAKE THE VACCINE



False Positive HIV Tests

- Since one way doctors usually diagnosis HIV is to test the body defenses to the virus, people who participate in an HIV vaccine study may test positive for HIV even though they do not have HIV
- Researchers will use special tests during the study that will provide correct test results.



Participation is Voluntary & Confidential

- Participation in these studies is always voluntary and all the facts about the study are explained to each person before they are asked if they want to participate.



- All information is given the same confidentiality protection as other medical records

