

Virus Bug

Infection

HIV

CD4

Sickness

Medication

Viral Load



HIV

HIV is a virus (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). When you are HIV positive the virus attacks your immune system so that over time stops it working properly. This means your body becomes less able to fight off illness. But with drugs and regular health monitoring, HIV can be controlled.

HIV +

A HIV positive diagnosis can seem like the end of the world. But in England, with modern HIV drugs, you should live a long and normal life. You will be able to do everything you want, like marry, have children, work, or go to college. You can live with HIV for many years without getting sick.

When you are diagnosed with HIV, it only means you have the HIV virus. It does not mean you have AIDS. HIV cannot be passed on by normal day to day contact.

HIV attacks and weakens the immune system and **over time, without HIV drugs,** most people would develop AIDS. But living in England means you should get HIV drugs when you need them and so not get AIDS.

Your HIV Doctor measures HIV every few months by taking blood samples. This is done to check your "CD4 count" and "Viral Load".

When your CD4 count falls between 350 and 200, your HIV doctor asks you to start taking powerful HIV drugs. These control the virus to help stop you becoming ill. Remember, in England, with proper treatments, HIV is well managed by drugs and you can live happily and healthily.

Contact **George House Trust 0161 274 4499**
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aidsmap www.aidsmap.com **NAT www.nat.org.uk**

george house trust
still life with HIV



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