

2 Virology, HIV and viral load

Questions

1. What kind of infection is HIV? what does HIV stand for?
2. What percentage of HIV is circulating in the blood?
3. Where is most HIV in the body?
4. Why are blood tests used for viral load?
5. What are sanctuary sites?
6. How do sanctuary sites affect (1) viral load (2) resistance (3) anti-HIV drugs?
7. List four causes of infections
8. What happens to your viral load:
 - in the first few days and weeks after infection?
 - after seroconversion?
 - in chronic infection?
 - in response to ARV treatment?

How high or low would your viral load be at each of these times?

9. Draw a graph to show what happens to your viral load from infection to a successful response to treatment.
10. In which decade was viral load testing developed? What was the lowest amount of HIV viral load tests could measure when they were first developed? What is the lowest amount of HIV routine viral load tests can measure today?
11. Name 3 kinds of viral load test
12. What is the margin of error for viral load tests?
13. What is the importance of viral load tests for someone who is taking HIV treatment?
14. What is the importance of viral load tests for someone who is not yet taking HIV treatment?
15. Describe how HIV can become resistant to ARVs.