



INFORMATION ABOUT THE INFECTION PROCESS

- From the first moment the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) enters the body, the person is considered HIV positive. This is also known as "having antibodies".
- When the HIV virus enters the human body, it starts to multiply, progressively destroying the CD4 lymphocyte cells, which help to defend us against infectious diseases.
- As time passes and nothing is done to prevent it, this lowering of the defenses (Immune system) could arrive to a point where the person is at risk of suffering from other infections (called "opportunistic"), which we are normally protected from.
- The time that it can take (If treatment is not taken) from the moment of infection until one of these opportunistic infections develops is quite variable. Sometimes it can take many years. For that reason, it is very important to do an HIV test without waiting to have symptoms.
- There is a risk of opportunistic infections appearing when the CD4 is lower than 200.
- We start to talk about AIDS when one of these opportunistic infections appears. Although the person has developed AIDS, this person can overcome the opportunistic infection that caused the diagnosis and return to good health.
- Opportunistic infections are really what can put a person's life at risk. Although they can be treated, it is always better to avoid a situation like this.
- The quantity of virus that circulates in the blood is known as the viral load and it is expressed in the number of copies of HIV in a milliliter of blood. When the viral load is high, the CD4 disappear very quickly. For this reason, the lower the viral load, the better.
- The current antiretroviral treatments stop the multiplication of the virus. This allows the defenses to stabilize or even improve, preventing the risk of infections appearing.