HIV & AIDS

- infect T-Helper cells [CD4] , macrophages & monocytes
- Destroy CD4 --> cell mediated immunity loss --> severe immunologic impairment --> multiple oppurtunistic infections, unusal cancers and death [features of AIDS]

HIV [Retroviridae]		
Characteristics	 Glycoprotein envelope (gp120 - gp41). Matrix layer. Capsid. Two copies of ssRNA. Enzymes (reverse transcriptase - integrase - protease). 	
Types	 <u>HIV-1:</u> Causes HIV infection worldwide. Highly <u>virulent.</u> Highly susceptible to mutations. <u>HIV-2:</u> Causes the infection in specific regions e.g. West Africa Relatively less virulent. Relatively less susceptible to mutations. 	
Life cycle [watch a video]	Protease Inhibitors Attachment Co-receptor antagonist Fusion inhibitors Fusion inhibitors Fusion Fusion Fusion CCRS or CXCR4 Reverse transcriptase Fusion Integration	
Transmission	 Sexually: The most common mode is sexual transmission at the genital mucosa through direct contact with infected blood, semen and vaginal secretion. Parenterally: Direct exposure to infected blood and blood products. Use contaminated needles and syringes as in (drug abuser) and Tattooing. Through contaminated surgical and <u>dental instruments.</u> Sharing contaminated razors , tooth brushes, and nail cutters. From mother to child transplacentally (vertical 25%) ,but Treatment of the mother with antiretroviral Anti-reverse transcriptase (<i>Zidovudine</i>) during pregnancy can reduce transmission in most cases. mainly (50%)during delivery (perinatally) given Anti-reverse transcriptase (<i>Nevirapine</i>) as single dose during delivery can reduce the transmission . breast feeding transmission (25%) .Antiretroviral treatment of the mother and infant after birth can also significantly decrease the risk of HIV infection in the 	

	1- Acute phase:
	 Incubation period (2-4 weeks) ,this phase Lasts for about 12 weeks.
	 Rapid viral replication (high viral load RNA in the serum).
	Gradual decrease in CD4 cell count.
	• 25-65% of patients develop symptoms resemble infectious mononucleosis or Flu like syndrome
	(fever, headache, anorexia, fatigue, lymphadenopathy, & skin rash).
	Some of patients may develop aseptic meningitis.
	About 13% of the patients will be asymptomatic.
	2- Chronic phase:
	Lasts for about 10 yrs in adults,5 years in children.
	Low viral load
	• CD4 count > 500/ml
	• Totally asymptomatic but the patients still contagious, at the end of this stage patients start to
	develop PGL and ARC:
Course	Persistant generalized lymphadenonathy [PGL] : I N enlargment at least 1cm;
Course	 In two or more extra inguinal area
	Persists for at least 2 months
	 In the absence of any illness or modication known to cause DGI
	AIDS related complex [ABC], group of symptoms before AIDS:
	• AIDS - related comples [ARC]: group of symptoms before AIDS:
	• Fever of unknown origin that persists > 1 month.
	Chronic diarrhea, persisting > 1 month.
	• Weight loss(Slim disease) > 10% of the original weight.
	• Fatigue.
	Neuorological disease as myelopathies and peripheral neuropathy.
	<u>3- AIDS:</u>
	The end stage of the disease.
	 Continuous viral replication (high viral load viral RNA in the serum).
	Marked decrease in CD4 cell count < 200
	 Persistent or frequent multiple opportunistic infections e.g Pneumocystis pneumonia and
	development of <mark>unusual cancer (Kaposi sarcoma)</mark>
	• Patient's history with or without clinical symptoms may give hints for a physician whether the patient
	has ever exposed to HIV or not.
	<u>Screening patient's serum</u> by:
	 <u>ELISA for both (HIV Ag & HIV Ab</u>) if +ve> repeated twice in duplicate> if still +ve will do
Dx	confirmatory tests (Western Blot).
	 Westere blot: To confirm the presence of Anti –HIV to the structural proteins of the virus by
	ELECTROPHORESIS
	 Blood viral load by PCR is also used as <u>confirmatory</u> test and to follow up patients response to
	treatment + Dx of infants of an HIV mother
	High Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)
	 combined therapy - doesn't clear virus *taken all life*
	2 reverse transcriptase inhibitprs & 1 prtease inhinitor
	 pts w/ Tx are still contageous even if blood viral load in <50
Ty	Goals:
	To inhibit viral replication.
	To control chronic immune activation and keep the immune system close to the normal state.
	To prevent the development of opportunistic infection.
	 To minimize the chance of viral transmission especially from mother to neonate.
	Treatment will never eradicate the HIV virus.





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