

The Truth About the HIV Vaccine



Myths and Facts About the HIV Vaccine

MYTH: An HIV vaccine will cause a person to contract AIDS.

FACT: It is impossible for an HIV vaccine to cause AIDS. Because the vaccines are man-made, there is no HIV in the vaccine, either living or dead. Some HIV vaccines are composed of genetically engineered pieces of HIV proteins, which cannot cause AIDS. Some other HIV vaccines are composed of a weakened form of a cold virus. ⁱ

MYTH: An HIV vaccine exists, but the government is keeping it a secret.

FACT: There are many challenges involved in developing an HIV vaccine; however, with each new study we learn more about how the body can fight the virus, making it possible to develop better potential HIV vaccines. HIV vaccine research requires both basic research to help us learn more about HIV, as well as development and testing of potential HIV vaccines. Dozens of different vaccine candidates and approaches are at various stages of scientific development. ⁱⁱ

COUNTRIES WITH ONGOING OR COMPLETED HIV VACCINE TRIALS



AUSTRALIA	CHINA	GERMANY	MALAWI	SWEDEN	UNITED KINGDOM
BELGIUM	CUBA	HAITI	THE NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND	KINGDOM
BOTSWANA	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	INDIA	LANDS	THAILAND	UNITED STATES
BRAZIL	FINLAND	ITALY	PERU	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	
CANADA	FRANCE	JAMAICA	PUERTO RICO	UGANDA	
		KENYA	SOUTH AFRICA		

How Community Members Can Get Involved

- Attend the annual Voices Conference
- Participate in Advocacy Day
- Become empowered as a Consumer Leadership Corps Trainer
- Encourage Community-Based Organizations in your neighborhood to apply for the Girls 4 HOPE Program
- Get involved by joining a Community Advisory Board
- Advocate for evidence-based, comprehensive sexual education curriculums in your local schools
- Support HIV/AIDS Vaccine Research
 - Tell others that HIV vaccine research does not transmit HIV and that each trial brings us closer to a vaccine
 - Inform people of the importance of an HIV vaccine and the need for people from diverse backgrounds to participate in HIV vaccine trials
 - Show your support for vaccine trial volunteers and/or become a vaccine trial volunteer yourself

References:

- i. HVTN. *HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, 2006*. Available at: <http://www.hvtn.org/community/hvad.html>
- ii. HVTN. *HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, 2006*. Available at: <http://www.hvtn.org/community/hvad.html>
- iii. HIV Vaccine Enterprise. *Clinical Trials Capacity, 2008*. Available at: http://www.hivvaccineenterprise.org/_img/vaccinetrials.gif



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