

BIOCARD™ HIV (1+2)

A rapid, simple and reliable immunochromatographic test for the qualitative detection of HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies from serum, plasma or whole blood sample.

Cat. no. 4-005-025

*Biocard HI (1+2) is sensitive and specific test for qualitative determination of antibodies to both HIV-1 and HIV-2 simultaneously.

* Easy and quick test procedure, result in 5 minutes

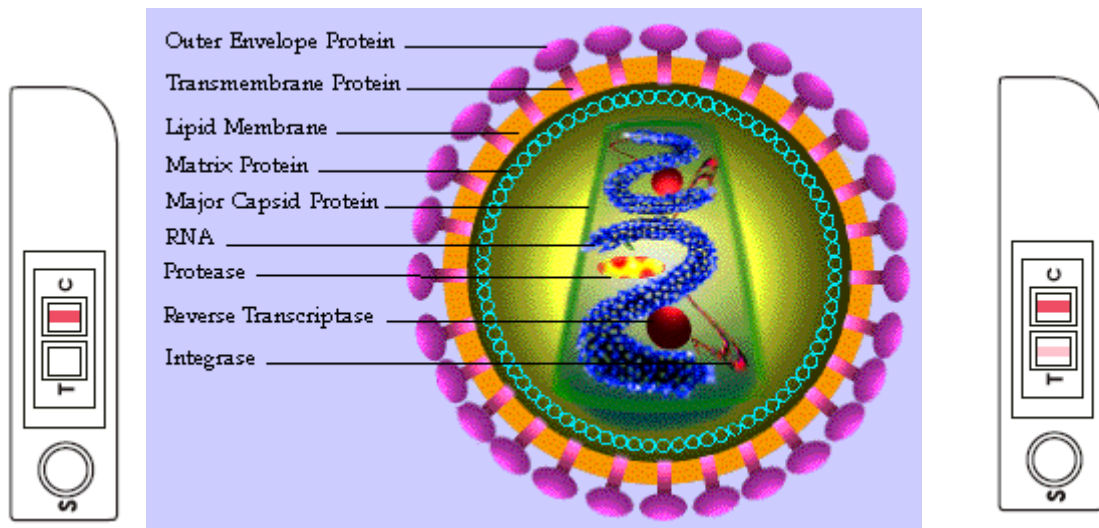
* Sensitivity 98,97 %

* Room temperature storage, shelf life 18 months

* Specificity 100 %

* 25 tests per package

* Accessories (sampling pipettes, lancets) included



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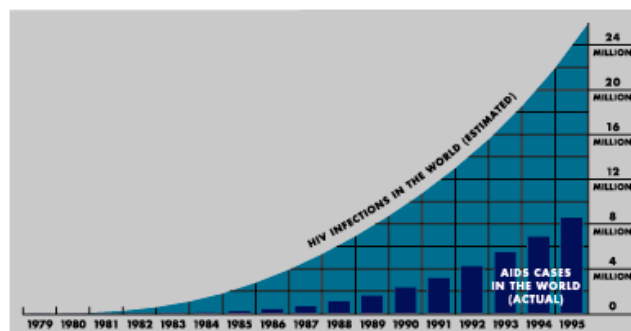
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Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a retrovirus that can lead to *acquired immunodeficiency syndrome* (AIDS, a condition in humans in which the immune system begins to fail, leading to life-threatening opportunistic infections).

Infection with HIV occurs by the transfer of blood, semen, vaginal fluid, pre-ejaculate, or breast milk. Within these bodily fluids, HIV is present as both free virus particles and virus within infected immune cells. The three major routes of transmission are unprotected sexual intercourse, contaminated needles, and transmission from an infected mother to her baby at birth, or through breast milk.

HIV infection in humans is now pandemic. As of January 2006, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that AIDS has killed more than 25 million people since it was first recognized on December 1, 1981, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in recorded history. In 2005 alone, AIDS claimed an estimated 2.4–3.3 million lives, of which more than 570,000 were children. It is estimated that about 0.6% of the world's living population is infected with HIV. A third of these deaths are occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, retarding economic growth and increasing poverty. According to current estimates, HIV is set to infect 90 million people in Africa, resulting in a minimum estimate of 18 million orphans.

HIV primarily infects vital cells in the human immune system such as helper T cells (specifically CD4⁺ T cells), macrophages and dendritic cells. HIV infection leads to low levels of CD4⁺ T cells through three main mechanisms: firstly, direct viral killing of infected cells; secondly, increased rates of apoptosis in infected cells; and thirdly, killing of infected CD4⁺ T cells by CD8 cytotoxic lymphocytes that recognize infected cells. When CD4⁺ T cell numbers decline below a critical level, cell-mediated immunity is lost, and the body becomes progressively more susceptible to opportunistic infections. If untreated, eventually most HIV-infected individuals develop AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) and die; however about one in ten remains healthy for many years, with no noticeable symptoms.



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