

THE VIRUSES

SNOORFF!



All viruses are different in the way they are caught and the effect they have on your body. Here is the **Virus for the common cold**. Once it gets into your body it multiplies and you get a cold. **Your body eventually fights off this virus and kills it.**



Your body can't fight off the HIV virus. If you get the HIV virus into your body, you eventually become ill and you may die, though this can take many years. **The illnesses you get from the HIV virus are called AIDS.** There are many treatments that can help you but **there is no cure for AIDS.** There is no vaccine that can stop you getting the HIV virus. In the last year there has been **a worrying increase in HIV among drug injectors in the U.K.**

The HEPATITIS B virus can seriously damage your body and can kill you. If you have HEP B you may notice flu like symptoms and have yellowy skin and eyes, your pee is often dark and your shit very pale/white. Sometimes the virus doesn't make you ill but can stay in your body and infect other people. **You can get a VACCINE** (an injection a bit like the flu jab) that will kill the HEP B virus as soon as it gets in your body. You should get the vaccination before you catch the virus. **There are treatments for HEP B.**



HEPATITIS C is a relatively new virus. It is thought that well over half of all drug injectors have caught this virus. With HEP C you may notice **symptoms like the flu and yellowy skin and eyes and you can become ill very quickly.** On the other hand some people catch the virus and it sleeps in their body for up to 20 years before it starts to make them ill. **There is no vaccine for HEP C, but treatment has improved** greatly over the past couple of years. **Contact your local drug service** who will advise you of your options and can arrange for you to get testing, treatment and any vaccinations.

Unless you become ill there is no way of knowing if you have caught one of more of these viruses. **It is important to know as you could be vulnerable to other infections and you could spread the virus to your friends and partners.**

Give the viruses a hard time by not sharing works, needles, barrels, spoons, filters, water pots or cups etc and by using a condom. Don't share tooth brushes or razors with anybody and only get tattoos or body piercing done by somebody reputable who uses new needles every time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIV, HEPATITIS B AND HEPATITIS C OR TO FIND OUT HOW TO GET A TEST OR A HEPATITIS B VACCINATION. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DRUG SERVICE.

[v1] lifeline: publication guidelines

[>] aims
To provide basic information in cartoon format about the transmission of HIV, Hep B and C and encourage Hep B vaccination.

[>] audience
Injecting drug users. Use with under 16s with support.

[v] content
Explicit language and comic sexual imagery.

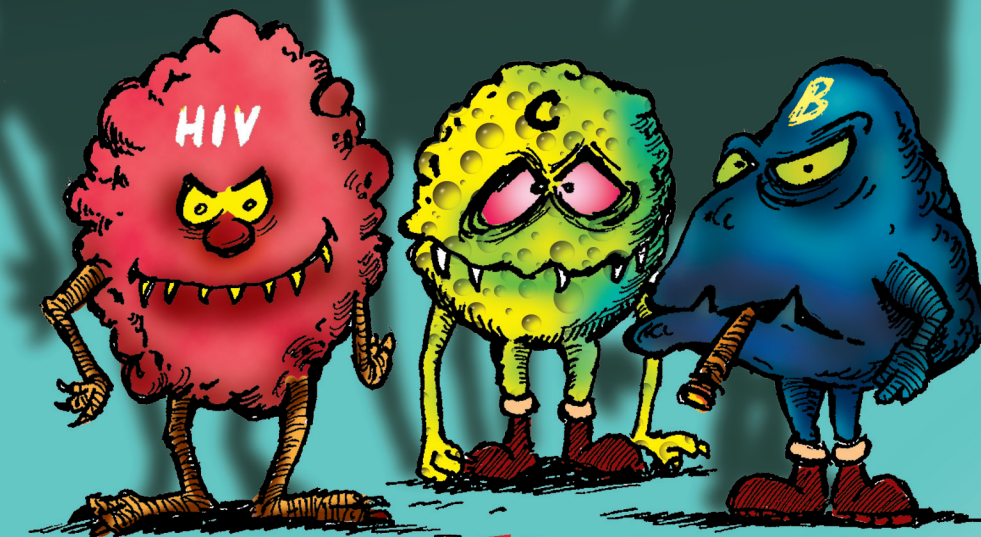
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LIFELINE PUBLICATIONS PRESENT

THE VIRUSES

THOSE MICROSCOPIC MENACES OF THE HUMAN BODY
A RATHER RUDE GUIDE FOR DRUG INJECTORS



HEP C

HEPATITIS C
A NEW MENACE

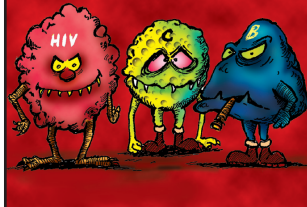
HIV
THE HUMAN IMMUNE
DEFICIENCY VIRUS THAT
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
AIDS

HEP B
HEPATITIS B
AN OLD ENEMY OF
DRUG INJECTORS

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A TINY DROP OF BLOOD. THIS DROP OF BLOOD WAS SO SMALL YOU COULDN'T SEE IT. SO WE HAVE MAGNIFIED IT A TRIZILLION TIMES UNDER A MICROSCOPE TO TELL OUR STORY.



NOW INSIDE THIS DROP OF BLOOD THERE LIVED THREE VIRUSES HIV, HEP B AND HEP C.



I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE. I'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE SOMEBODY, SOMEHOW!



WHEN I GET INSIDE SOMEBODY ELSE, I'M GONNA MULTIPLY AND MY ARMIES WILL ATTACK THEIR LIVERS.

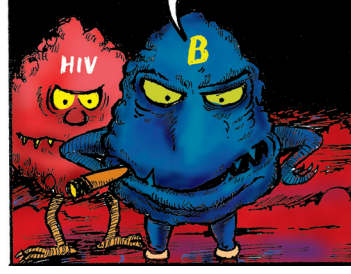


TOP IDEA HEP B!
LET ME THINK, LET'S LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITIES.

HOW YOU GONNA DO IT?



WE CAN'T GET THROUGH SKIN. UNLESS THERE IS A CUT. LET'S SEE, I KNOW WHEN THEY BRUSH THEIR TEETH



I THOUGHT GOING STRAIGHT INTO THE MOUTH WAS NO GOOD. SALIVA AND STOMACH ACID WOULD SOON KILL US OFF.

BUT, IF SOMEBODY BRUSHES THEIR TEETH, THERE'S OFTEN A BIT OF BLOOD. IF SOMEBODY ELSE USES THEIR TOOTHBRUSH WE CAN INFECT THEM.



IT'S THE SAME WITH RAZOR BLADES, NAIL CLIPPERS, BODY PIERCING OR TATTOOS. IF SOMEBODY IS INFECTED AND A TINY DROP OF THEIR BLOOD GETS INTO SOMEBODY ELSE, I'M IN!

LOVELY JUBBLY



BUT WHAT ABOUT ME I'M A BIT OF A WEEDY VIRUS, I CAN'T LIVE VERY LONG OUTSIDE OF THE BODY, I'LL DIE IN DRIED BLOOD.



DON'T WORRY HIV ME AND YOU CAN EASILY GET IN WHEN THEY HAVE SEX THOUGH HEP C FINDS IT HARDER



S'NOT FAIR!

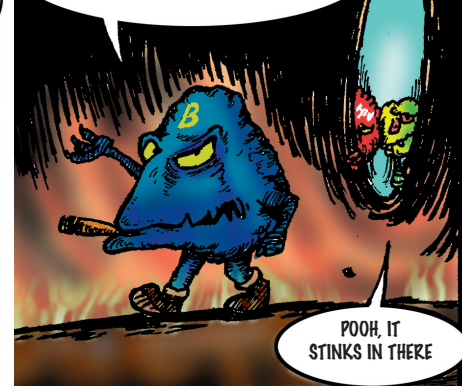


IT'S EASY FOR ME AND HIV TO GET INTO THE VAGINA. YOU STICK TO BLOOD SON, YOU'LL DO WELL THERE



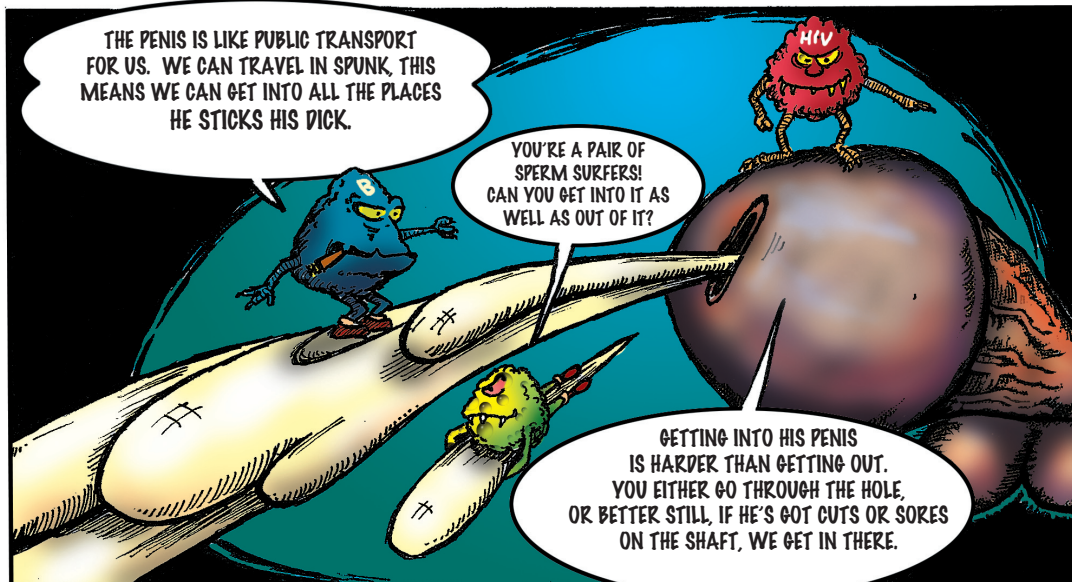
WE CAN TRAVEL IN HIS SPUNK AND THEN PASS EASILY INTO THE VAGINAL JUICES. EXCEPT IF THE BASTARD IS WEARING A CONDOM. THEN WE GET NOWHERE

THE ARSEHOLE IS GOOD TOO, IF HE STICKS HE'S PENIS IN HERE THERE'S LOADS OF LITTLE BLOOD VESSELS READY TO BURST AND WE'RE IN.



POOH, IT STINKS IN THERE

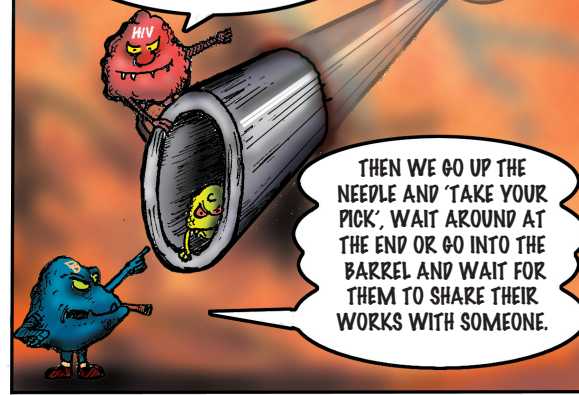
THE PENIS IS LIKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR US. WE CAN TRAVEL IN SPUNK, THIS MEANS WE CAN GET INTO ALL THE PLACES HE STICKS HIS DICK.



YOU'RE A PAIR OF SPERM SURFERS! CAN YOU GET INTO IT AS WELL AS OUT OF IT?

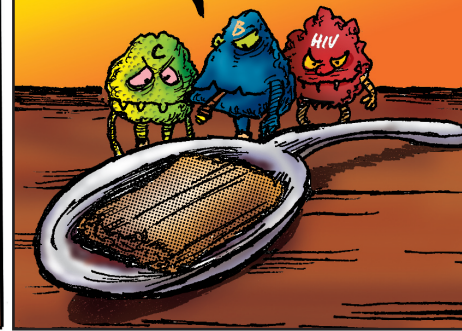
GETTING INTO HIS PENIS IS HARDER THAN GETTING OUT. YOU EITHER GO THROUGH THE HOLE, OR BETTER STILL, IF HE'S GOT CUTS OR SORES ON THE SHAFT, WE GET IN THERE.

INJECTING DRUG USERS MAKE LIFE EASY FOR ALL OF US. WE JUST HANG ABOUT IN THE BLOOD WAITING TO HOP A RIDE ON A NEEDLE

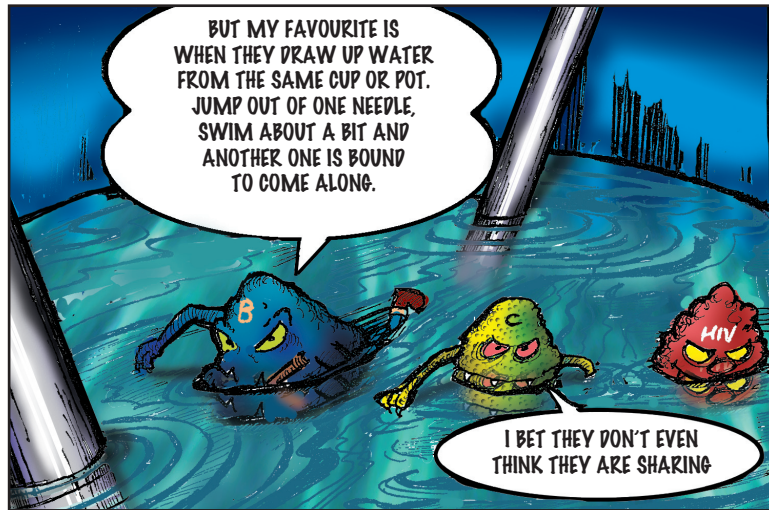


THEN WE GO UP THE NEEDLE AND 'TAKE YOUR PICK', WAIT AROUND AT THE END OR GO INTO THE BARKEL AND WAIT FOR THEM TO SHARE THEIR WORKS WITH SOMEONE.

IF THEY DON'T SHARE WORKS, HANG AROUND IN FILTERS OR SPOONS, THEY SOMETIMES SHARE THOSE, THAT'S A REALLY GOOD WAY OF INFECTING THEM.



BUT MY FAVOURITE IS WHEN THEY DRAW UP WATER FROM THE SAME CUP OR POT. JUMP OUT OF ONE NEEDLE, SWIM ABOUT A BIT AND ANOTHER ONE IS BOUND TO COME ALONG.



I BET THEY DON'T EVEN THINK THEY ARE SHARING

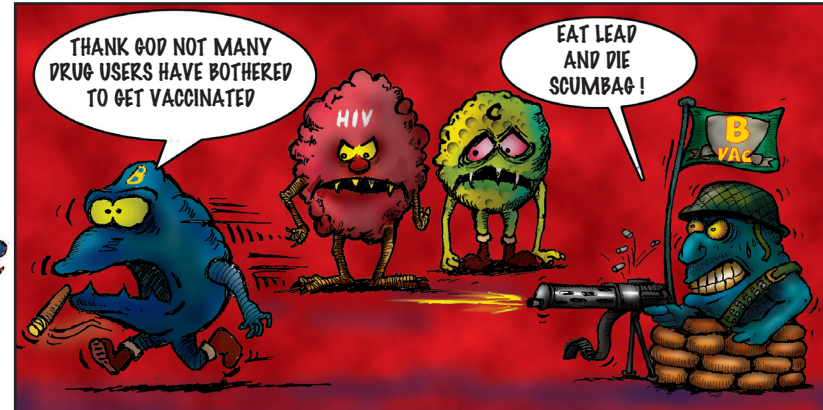
SO, YOU SEE HOW EASY IT IS. JUST ONE WORD OF WARNING. THERE IS NO VACCINE THAT CAN PREVENT YOU TWO GETTING INTO SOMEBODY... BUT FOR ME (GULP)



THERE IS A HEP B VACCINE THAT KILLS ME



THANK GOD NOT MANY DRUG USERS HAVE BOTHERED TO GET VACCINATED



EAT LEAD AND DIE SCUMBAG!