

AIDS Treatment News

Viral Load Success: Call for Information

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April 21, 1995

AIDS TREATMENT NEWS Issue #221, April 21, 1995

AIDS TREATMENT NEWS would like to hear from physicians, other medical professionals, and patients about any cases of striking, unusual, or unexpected reduction in viral load.

This request was inspired by a case in which viral load went from 483,000 copies in January 1994 to 26,000 in August 1994; the only treatment changes during that period were starting high-dose acyclovir to treat a herpes outbreak, and starting DNCB and Trental. [This patient, who is an expert on conventional and alternative treatments, suggests that anyone who is HIV positive and has a history of herpes should consider acyclovir. We also suggest getting a baseline viral load test first, to be able to tell if viral load goes down after starting the treatment; acyclovir is a safe drug, but it is expensive.] We wanted to bring this case, and other examples of major improvement after treatment change, to the attention of our readers.

Your report should include: * At least two viral load test results, so that a change can be seen. Preferably use the Roche quantitative HIV PCR (for example, the test offered by RBL, Roche Biomedical Laboratories), or the Chiron branched DNA test.

* Any CHANGES in treatment between these tests, which might have accounted for the change.

* Major treatments which did NOT change during that period -- especially antivirals such as AZT, ddI, ddC, d4T, 3TC, protease inhibitors, or other experimental treatments such as nevirapine.

* A name and phone number or address so that we can contact you if we have additional questions.

Send your report to: AIDS Treatment News, P.O. Box 411256, San Francisco, CA 94141.

Alternatively, you can call John James at 415/255-6259, or send a fax to 415/255-4659.

[See the topic on aegis.org](http://aegis.org)