

Source: [KBhBIO101Viruses](#)

# 1 | Retroviruses

Viruses that have the ability to intergrate into the chromosomes of the host cell

## 1.1 | Retroviruses, infection

Normal [KBhBIO101ViralInfection](#) infection stuff happen, but then...

- As the virus is uncoated, it uses an enzyme called “reverse transcriptase” to turn ssRNA to cDNA, and finally into dsDNA (template strand DNA).
- And, ready for this? The virus then uses an enzyme called **intergrase** to thread the viral dsDNA into the cell’s normal nucleus

A bonus for HIV (which is a Retrovirus) — it utilizes **protease** to cut HIV’s polyproteins into individual parts ready for budding.

## 1.2 | Retroviruses, Late Stage

The proviral region (the part that makes virus) newly inserted to the cell’s DNA is transcribed slowly when normal [KBhBIO101CentralDogma](#) comes across it to synthesize proteins. In this case, this virus would spread through cell duplication

When the cell is undergoing [KBhBIO101CellCycle](#), the proviral area is replicated and exported as usual, making descendents of the cell also have the proviral region. This property makes these viruses especially hard to get rid of, which is why we still can’t cure HIV.

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To make these activities happen, the virus needs two enzymes — **Reverse Transcriptase + Intergrase**

- **Reverse Transcriptase**
  - Transcript RNA to double-stranded RNA
  - Take double-stranded RNA to turn into DNA
- **Integrase**
  - Force insert the DNA into the genome of the host cell

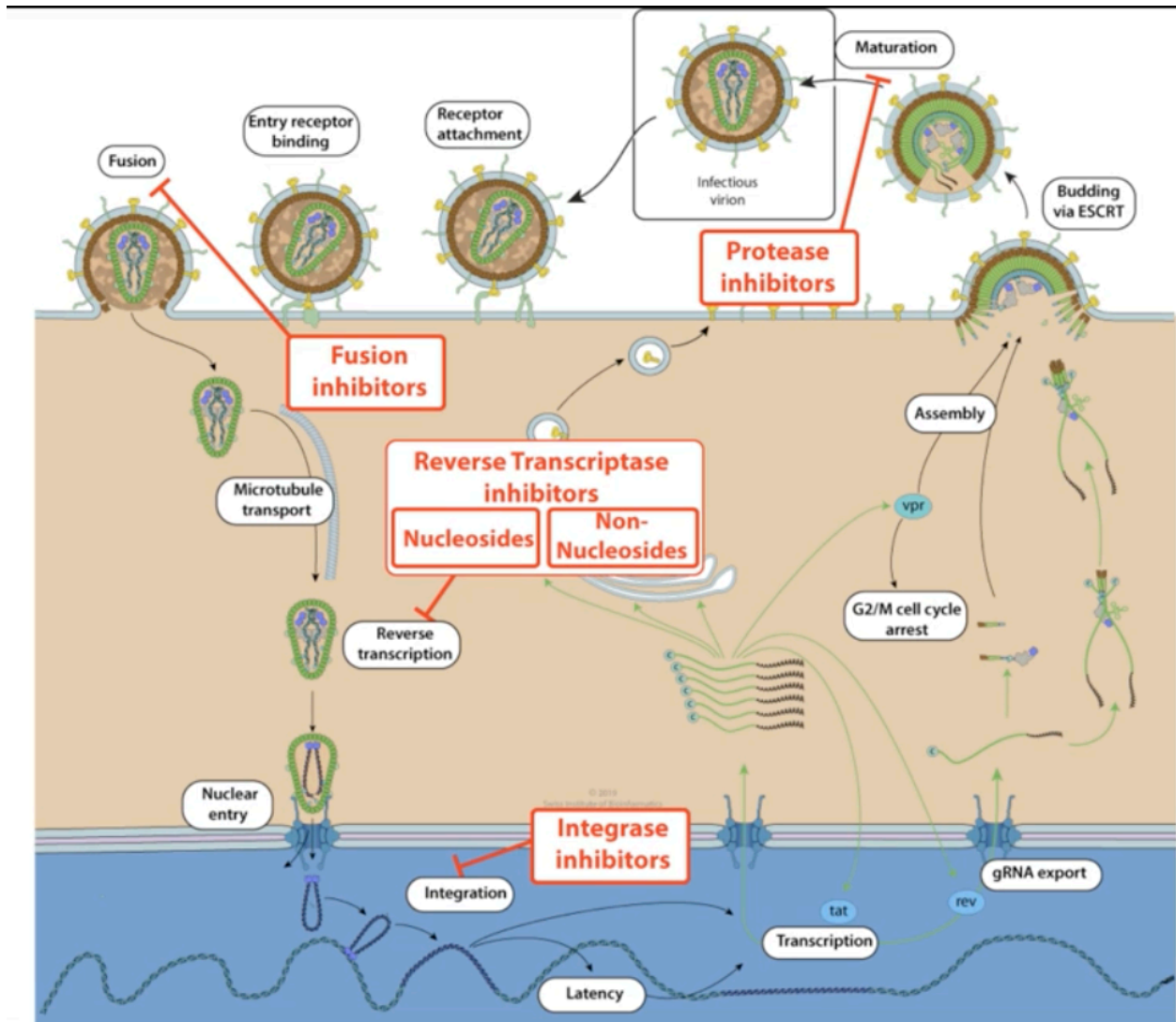


Figure 1: Screen Shot 2020-10-12 at 11.22.35 PM.png

### 1.3 | Preventing Retroviruses

There are a few different drugs that prevent a few different steps of the retroviral infection process