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**1981**

A rare type of skin cancer - Kaposi's Sarcoma - and pneumonia are found in young gay men in New York and California, US. These are the first documented cases of AIDS. In June, the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) publishes the first report on the epidemic titled: [*Pneumocystis pneumonia* – Los Angeles.](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/lmrk077.htm)

**1982**

22 cases of unexplained immunodeficiency and opportunistic infections in infants are reported in CDC’s weekly *Morbidity and Mortality report*. In California, an infant is [suspecte](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00001203.htm)d to have been infected with AIDS trough blood transfusions.

**1983**

On May 20, the journal [*Science*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_%28journal%29) publishes two studies on the discovery of the [HIV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV) [virus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virus) that causes [AIDS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AIDS). [Luc Montagnier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luc_Montagnier) and his team from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, calls the virus lymphadenopathy-associated virus (LAV). While an American team led by [Robert Gallo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Gallo) calls the virus “human T-lymphotropic virus type III” (HTLV-III). It is later named the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

**1984**

A study published in the *American Journal of Medicine* traces many of New York’s early HIV infections to an infected homosexual male flight attendant from Canada. He is featured prominently in [Randy Shilts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Randy_Shilts)'s bestseller [*And the Band Played On*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/And_the_Band_Played_On), which documents the outbreak of AIDS in the US.

**1985**

Studies indicate that unlike in Europe and the US, in Africa there is a high prevalence of the HIV among [heterosexuals](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673684902411). In Uganda the disease is called [**Slim disease**](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2864575)**.**

**1987**

The first [antiretroviral drug](http://www.avert.org/treatment.htm) (AZT) is licensed in the US to treat people with [HIV](http://www.avert.org/hiv.htm), but is unavailable to virtually everyone in Africa.

**1990**

Kenyan scientists unveil a drug, named KEMRON that is said to cure HIV and Aid. Aids are still a mystery and researchers from all over the globe are struggling to figure it out. The Kenyan drug is later dismissed as ineffective.

### 1992

The first combination drug therapies for HIV are introduced. This HIV drug cocktail is more effective than earlier treatment and slow down the development of drug resistance.

**1994**

Research has shown that AZT can reduce mother to child transmission. In the US the drug is now recommended to protect unborn fetuses from HIV.

**1996**

Kenyan Doctor Arthur Obel claims his drug, Pearl Omega, can stop the AIDS virus from reproducing. The Medical Practitioners and Dentists board later ban Dr Obel from marketing the ineffective drug.

**1998**

The first full-scale trial of a vaccine against HIV begins in the US. At the same time **t**wo teams of researchers begin developing vaccines targeted against the strains of HIV prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile an HIV strain resistant to all drugs on the market at the time turns up in San Francisco.

**2000:** [Vaccine trials](http://allafrica.com/stories/200012200112.html) for the first HIV vaccine candidate specifically designed for Africa begin in Nairobi. The launch of the trials also coincided with the commissioning of a new AIDS research laboratory under the Kenya Aids Vaccine Initiative (KAVI) at.

**2004**

HIV blocking microbicides go on trial. The vaginal creams may provide a powerful weapon against the spread of HIV. Animal studies show some prevent infection in up to 75 per cent of cases

**2007**

At a World Health Organisation International consultation, which was held 6-8 March 2007 in Montreux, Switzerland, [experts recommend](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr10/en/) that male circumcision now be recognised as an additional important intervention to reduce the risk of heterosexually acquired HIV infection in men.

**2010**

Doctors claim [**HIV-positive man cured by stem cell transplant**](http://www.foxnews.com/health/2010/12/14/doctors-claim-hiv-positive-man-cured-stem-cell-transplant/), according to a study in the published in the medical journal Blood.

**2013**

Small group of patients, known among scientists as the [Viscouti cohort](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-21783945), were able to stop taking Aids drugs without any resurgence of the virus in their bodies study [finds](http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1003211).