

London HIV patient’s remission spurs hope for curing AIDS

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>A stem-cell treatment put a London cancer patient’s HIV into remission, marking the second such reported case and reinvigorating efforts to cure the AIDS-causing infection that afflicts some 37 million people globally.</p> <p>The patient has been in remission for 19 months, the International AIDS Society said in a statement. That’s too soon to label the treatment—which used hematopoietic stem cells from a donor with an HIV-resistance gene—as a cure, researchers said Tuesday in a study in the journal Nature.</p> <p>”Coming 10 years after the successful report of the ’Berlin Patient, ’ this new case confirms that bone marrow transplantation from a CCR5-negative donor can eliminate residual virus and stop any traces of virus from rebounding, ” said Sharon Lewin, director of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity at the University of Melbourne, in a statement.</p> <p>”Although it is not a viable large-scale strategy for a cure, it does represent a critical moment in the search for an HIV cure.” International AIDS Society President Anton Pozniak said in the statement.</p> <p>Researchers are developing better antiretroviral treatments, prevention methods, and vaccines to halt infections while continuing to pursue a cure for those already infected. That goal is ”likely to be many years away, ” said Andrew Freedman, reader in infectious diseases and an honorary consultant physician at Cardiff University.</p> <p>”Until then, the emphasis needs to remain on prompt diagnosis of HIV and initiation of life-long combination antiretroviral therapy, ” Freedman said in a statement.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	