

WHAT DAMAGE THE INFECTION CAN CAUSE

The different damage the HIV infection can cause are called :

-Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP).

This fungal infection can cause severe illness.

PCP is still the most common cause of pneumonia in people infected with HIV.

-Candidiasis (thrush).

Candidiasis is a common HIV-related infection. It causes inflammation and a thick, white coating on your mouth, tongue, esophagus or vagina.

-Tuberculosis (TB).

TB is a common opportunistic infection associated with HIV. Worldwide, TB is a leading cause of death among people with AIDS.

-Cytomegalovirus.

This common herpes virus is transmitted in body fluids such as saliva, blood, urine, semen and breast milk. A healthy immune system inactivates the virus, and it remains dormant in your body.

If your immune system weakens, the virus resurfaces, can cause damage to your eyes, digestive tract, lungs or other organs.

-Cryptococcal meningitis.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes and fluid surrounding your brain and spinal cord (meninges).

Cryptococcal meningitis is a common central nervous system infection associated with HIV, caused by a fungus found in soil.

-Toxoplasmosis. This potentially deadly infection is caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite spread primarily by cats.

Infected cats pass the parasites in their stools, which may then spread to other animals and humans. Toxoplasmosis can cause heart disease, and seizures occur when it spreads to the brain.