

You Don't Need to Have HIV to Test HIV Positive

Factors known to cause false-positive HIV antibody test results:

- Anti-carbohydrate antibodies
- Naturally-occurring antibodies
- Passive immunization: receipt of gamma globulin or immune globulin (as prophylaxis against infection which contains antibodies)
- Leprosy
- Tuberculosis
- Mycobacterium avium
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Renal (kidney) failure
- Hemodialysis/renal failure Alpha interferon therapy in hemodialysis patients
- Flu
- Flu vaccination
- Herpes simplex I
- Herpes simplex II
- Upper respiratory tract infection (cold or flu)
- Recent viral infection or exposure to viral vaccines
- Pregnancy
- Malaria
- Hepatitis
- Blood transfusions
- Normal human ribonucleoproteins
- Other retroviruses
- Anti-microsomal antibodies
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome
- High levels of circulating immune complexes
- Hypergammaglobulinemia (high levels of antibodies)
- False positives on other tests, including RPR (rapid plasma reagent) test for syphilis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Hepatitis B vaccination
- Tetanus vaccination
- Organ transplantation
- Renal transplantation
- Anti-lymphocyte antibodies
- Anti-collagen antibodies (found in gay men, hemophiliacs, Africans and people with leprosy)
- Serum-positive for rheumatoid factor and antinuclear antibody (both found in rheumatoid arthritis and other autoantibodies)
- Autoimmune diseases
- Malignant neoplasms (cancers)
- Anti-nuclear antibodies
- Proteins on the filter paper
- Epstein-Barr virus
- Visceral leishmaniasis
- Anti-mitochondrial antibodies
- Hyperbilirubinemia
- Cross reactions in healthy individuals
- Alcoholic hepatitis/alcoholic liver disease
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis
- "Sticky" blood (in Africans)
- Antibodies with a high affinity for polystyrene (used in the test kits)
- Multiple myeloma
- HLA antibodies (to Class I and II leukocyte antigens)
- Anti-smooth muscle antibody
- Anti-parietal cell antibody
- Anti-hepatitis A IgM (antibody)
- Anti-Hbc IgM
- Administration of human immunoglobulin pooled before 1985
- Hemophilia
- Hematologic malignant disorders and lymphoma
- Primary biliary cirrhosis
- Q-fever with associated hepatitis
- Heat-treated specimens
- Lipemic serum (blood with high levels of fat or lipids)
- Hemolyzed serum (hemoglobin separated from red cells)
- Globulins produced during polyclonal gammopathies in AIDS risk groups)
- Non-viral I proteins passed through sexual activity

DID YOU KNOW?

No HIV test that claims to diagnose actual infection has ever been approved by the FDA.

No HIV test can determine if you have HIV specific antibodies or the actual virus.

No HIV test has ever been validated by the direct finding of HIV in any human being

No exposure to HIV is necessary in order to test HIV positive.