

# AIDS related infections

Several years may pass during which HIV decimates the white blood cells, the body's defensive immune system. As they are destroyed, AIDS-related infections take hold and account for 90 per cent of the deaths from AIDS

## 7 – 8 years after infection

60–75 per cent of the white cells are destroyed. The first infections to appear are bacterial skin infections, thrush (painful sores of the mouth) and shingles (an infection of the nerves and skin).

Victims also suffer chronic fevers, diarrhoea, severe athlete's foot, night sweats and weight loss

## 8 – 9 years after infection

75–95 per cent of the white cells are destroyed. Brain diseases such as meningitis and toxoplasmosis

Pneumonia and tuberculosis

## 9 – 10 years

Herpes simplex infections to the skin, mucous membranes and oesophagus

Cytomegalovirus infection of the colon causes uncontrollable bleeding

Ulcers around genitals and rectum

**Death usually occurs by year 10**

SOURCES:  
U.S. Center  
for Disease  
Control,  
Scientific  
American,  
Fairfield  
Hospital,  
Melbourne,  
Australia

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