

# AIDS virus uses 'key' to enter human cells

Scientists at France's Pasteur Institute have isolated a second receptor, CD26, which helps the HIV virus infect human cells. They believe the receptor – which acts as a 'door' into the cell – is unlocked by a 'key' within the virus. Identification of the key opens the way to a possible vaccine

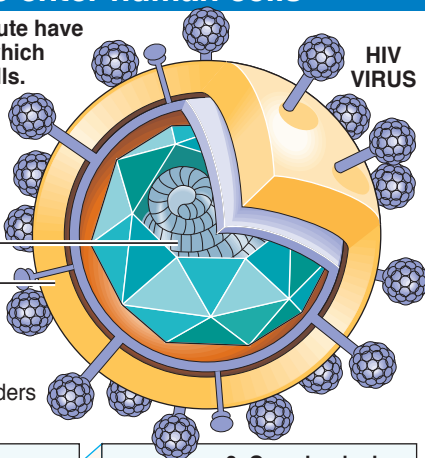
1. Virus binds to receptors on surface of host cells



Genetic material

Protein capsule

Binders



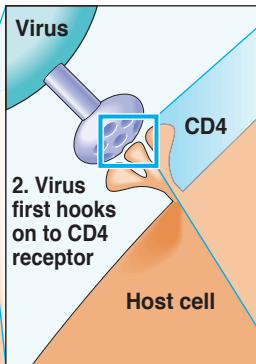
HIV VIRUS

Virus

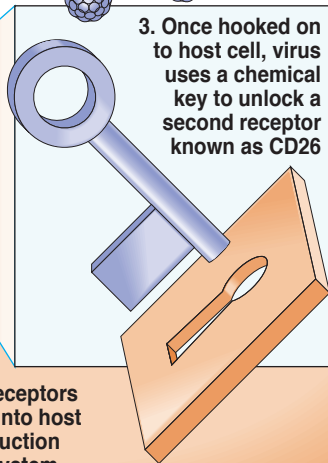
CD4

2. Virus first hooks on to CD4 receptor

Host cell



3. Once hooked on to host cell, virus uses a chemical key to unlock a second receptor known as CD26



4. Unlocked CD26 receptors allow virus to pass into host cell and begin destruction of body's immune system

CD4 and CD26 receptors