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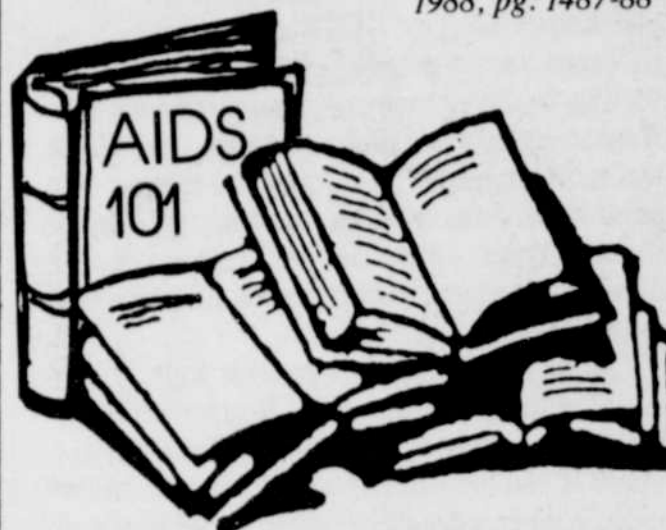
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Condoms rarely break

Condoms, used by hustlers in Sydney, Australia, rarely broke during anal intercourse. Only three out of 664 condoms broke and two of the three condoms that broke were lubricated with mineral oil. Researchers concluded that condoms provide an effective barrier to HIV infection when worn by experienced users.

References: Juliet Richters and others. "Low Condom Breakage Rate in Commercial Sex." *The Lancet*, December 24-31, 1988, pg: 1487-88



BY JEFFREY ZURLINDEN

Synthetic virus may become vaccine

In an attempt to produce a live virus vaccine against HIV, scientists inserted an HIV gene into a harmless virus, adenovirus-type-5. The resulting new virus infects T-cells, but instead of producing the entire HIV virus, an infected T-cell produces only the coating that surrounds HIV. These scientists hope the new virus will stimulate an antibody response that will prevent infection with genuine HIV. It will be years before these laboratory experiments can be tested on humans.

References: Robin Dewar and others. "Synthesis and Processing of HIV-1 Envelope Protein Encoded by Recombinant Human Adenovirus." *Journal of Virology*, January, 1989, pg: 129-36

Intravenous cocaine users at risk

Blacks and Hispanics who inject cocaine daily run the greatest risk of HIV infection among IV drug users, say researchers from San Francisco. Overall 12 percent of the drug users were infected with HIV, but 26 percent of the black drug users were infected, and 35 percent of the daily cocaine users were infected. Daily cocaine users inject in shooting galleries and share needles with more people than do other drug users.

References: Richard Chaisson and others. "Cocaine Use and HIV Infection in Intravenous Drug Users in San Francisco." *JAMA*, Vol. 261 #4, January 27, 1989, pg: 5611-65

Alpha — interferon slows HIV

The drug alpha-interferon reduced the amount of HIV in men with ARC and in men with symptom-free HIV infection. Although only tested on five men, Alpha-interferon showed promise of controlling HIV infection. The dose of alpha-interferon was smaller and had fewer side effects than the dose used to treat Kaposi's Sarcoma.

References: M.G. Brook and others. "Anti-HIV Effects of Alpha-Interferon." *The Lancet*, January 7, 1989, pg: 42

Antibodies fight HIV

Laboratory-produced antibodies prevented HIV from infecting healthy T-cells by damaging the HIV core. According to scientists at the Frederick Cancer Research Facility, the new antibodies identified the specific parts of the HIV core that are vulnerable. These new antibodies may lead to a vaccine or to a therapy

which bolsters the immune system of an infected person.

References: Lawrence Papsidero and others. "HIV-1-Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibodies Which React with p17 Core Protein: Characterization and Epitome Mapping." *Journal of Virology*, January, 1989, pg: 267-72

Blacks and Hispanics at greater risk

Blacks and Hispanics represent 18 percent of the US population, but accounted for 38 percent of the people with AIDS — meaning the risk of HIV infection and AIDS is almost three times greater for blacks and Hispanics than for whites. Women and children run the greatest risks. Compared to whites, the risk of AIDS is 13 times greater for black women, eight times greater for Hispanic women, 11 times greater for black children, and six times greater for Hispanic children. According to the researchers, blacks and Hispanics run greater risks because of greater degrees of bisexuality, IV drug use, and sex with IV drug users.

Reference: Richard Selik and others. "Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Risks of AIDS in the U.S.," *American Journal of Public Health*, December, 1988, Vol. 78 #12, pg: 1539-45

AZT update

AZT was less beneficial to people with AIDS and ARC in a six-month study, than researchers predicted from the original AZT studies. For many of the men, the benefit from AZT only lasted a month before low blood counts forced a lower dose of AZT. Of the people with ARC, 14 percent developed AIDS and 18 percent of all the people with AIDS died within 48 weeks. In general, the people who remained the healthiest had more T-cells, were more active, had more white blood cells, and began AZT soon after they learned they had AIDS.

References: E. Dournon, and others. "Effects of Zidovudine in 365 Consecutive Patients With AIDS or ARC-Related Complex." *The Lancet*, December 3, 1988, Pg: 1297-1302

Teens misunderstand AIDS transmission

High school students poorly understand how AIDS is spread, according to a 15-state survey by the Centers for Disease Control. Thirty-five to 58 percent of the students thought they could get AIDS from using public toilets, 53-71 percent from mosquito or other insect bites, 25-50 percent from having their blood tested, and 47-72 percent from donating blood. However, most of the students knew that they could also get AIDS from sharing needles and syringes or from sexual intercourse.

References: R. Rath and others. "HIV-Related Beliefs, Knowledge and Behavior Among High School Students." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, December 2, 1988, Vol 37 #47, pg: 71-21

Condom use

Despite periodic education about condom use, a small number of gay men continue to have receptive anal intercourse with casual partners without using condoms, according to Canadian researchers. Although many men have reduced the number of sexual partners, 22 percent of the men who continue to have receptive anal intercourse with casual partners do not use condoms. The men who were not infected with HIV used condoms less than did the HIV-infected men.

Reference: Martin Schecter and others. "Patterns of Sexual Behavior and Condom Use in a Cohort of Homosexual Men." *American Journal of Public Health*, December, 1988, Vol. 78 #12, pg: 1535-38