



# Future Blocks

10 stubborn obstacles to good treatment for all U.S. HIVers:

May 1, 2004 By David Gelman, MD

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## **1. Lack of research.**

Few studies on women, people of color and children.

## **2. Late diagnosis.**

Some 40 percent of HIVers have less than 200 CD4s at diagnosis, raising their disease risk.

## **3. Drug side effects.**

Folks with conditions like hypertension and diabetes take meds without fearing diarrhea, lipo or fatigue. Why, oh, why can't we?

## **4. Substance abuse.**

Booze and party drugs hurt HAART adherence—and some sap the meds' strength.

## **5. Health-insurance woes.**

Having insurance slashes HIV deaths by about 75 percent among the recently diagnosed. But ADAP is crumbling....

## **6. Not enough savvy docs.**

Wanted: more HIV specialists—and fast.

## **7. Medical education.**

Many HIVers can't comprehend medical consent forms or pill-bottle labels.

## **8. Drug prices.**

A chronic pain, inflamed by Norvir's recent quadrupling.

## **9. Limited research.**

More trials are needed, and not enough HIVers sign up.

## **10. Dubya.**

The prez isn't losing sleep over whether HIVers are getting care—just over whether some of us are getting married.

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