



P24

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While some may shriek at the idea of exporting the West's problematic med tech to the Third World, others argue it's better than nothing. P24-antigen tests may hit big in poor parts as a cheapish way to check not only if an HIVer should start combo therapy but how well it's working. The test measures p24 antigen, a protein in the core of HIV, which, in turn, indicates how much virus is in the blood. Its virtue is cost: \$20 to \$30 per, compared to \$152 for a standard viral-load test. Its vices: p24 is essentially a surrogate for a surrogate (HIV RNA) and so is not nearly as accurate as the rich-world way.

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/P24-2925-5134>