Cure: Baby in Remission 18 Months Off ARVs

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The famed baby born to an HIV-positive mother in Mississippi, who appeared to have been functionally cured of the virus following an atypically aggressive course of antiretroviral treatment given shortly after birth, remains in viral remission 18 months after stopping treatment. Researchers released an updated report in late October on the now-3-year-old child, the findings of which they believe indicate that this case is “not a mere fluke.” They theorize that the child went into remission because the virus was never able to establish a reservoir in the child’s body. The case study suggests that other children can achieve remission after a similarly aggressive treatment regimen. Consequently, a federally funded study will begin in 2014 to determine if the case’s success can be replicated.

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