



Cure: More Stem Cell Cures

Each new case offers clues that could help scientists develop a more widely accessible functional HIV cure.

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Two more people appear to be free of HIV after stem cell transplants for cancer treatment. If they remain in remission, they will be the ninth and tenth cases. The Chicago Patient, a 67-year-old man, received a stem cell transplant from a donor with two copies of a rare mutation called CCR5-delta32 that blocks HIV from entering cells. This case is notable because he stopped antiretroviral treatment 15 months after the transplant, experienced viral rebound, restarted antiretrovirals, tried a second treatment interruption two years later and has now been in HIV remission for 10 months. The Oslo Patient, a 58-year-old man, received a stem cell transplant from a brother with the double mutation. He developed severe graft-versus-host disease and received the immunosuppressive drug ruxolitinib. He stopped antiretrovirals two years after the transplant, and his viral load remains undetectable two years later. Stem cell transplants are too risky for people without cancer, but each new case offers clues that could help scientists develop a more widely accessible functional cure.

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