



New HIV Strain Is First to Be Transmitted From Gorillas

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A new HIV strain—known as HIV-1, group P—has been discovered in an African woman, [Bloomberg](#) reports. Originally from Cameroon, the 62-year-old woman currently resides in Paris. She has no AIDS-related symptoms.

According to the article, the discovery was published in the journal *Nature* by researchers at the University of Rouen in France. Researchers believe that this strain was first transmitted to humans from gorillas, not chimpanzees. Previous cases of HIV-1 are believed to have originated in chimpanzees and spread to humans when people slaughtered and ate the animals.

The new HIV strain is closely related to the simian immunodeficiency virus-gorilla, or SIVgor. However, the woman most likely contracted the virus from a human. She reported no contact with gorillas, including bush meat. Also, the virus, which can't be detected by conventional HIV tests, showed signs of adapting to human cells.

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