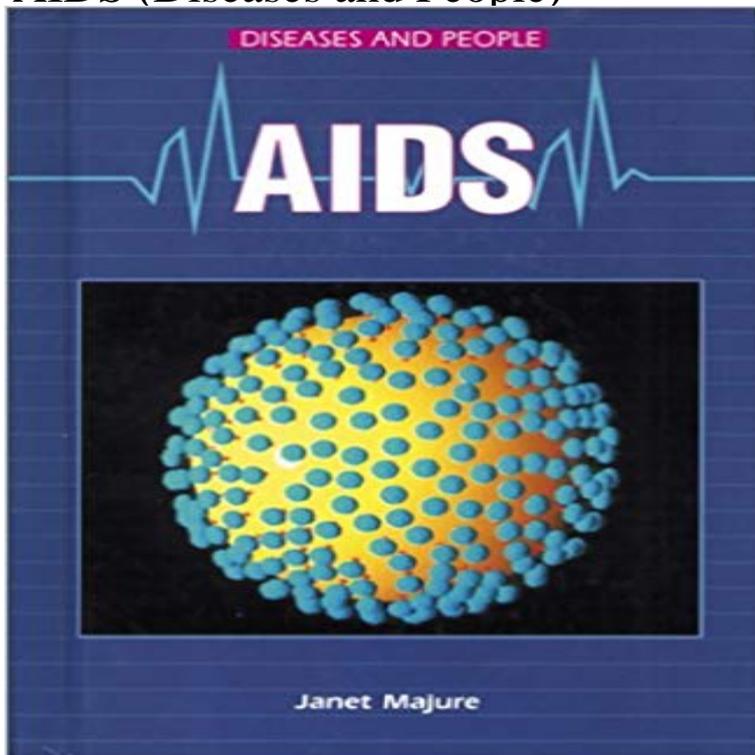


AIDS (Diseases and People)



Discusses the history, diagnosis, causes, prevention, and treatment of a disease that has affected more people over a wider geographic range than any other epidemic.

People with AIDS develop many diseases and opportunistic infections (such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, cancer, and skin infections) that may ultimately lead to death. The symptoms of HIV and AIDS vary, depending on the phase of infection. Some people develop more severe disease much sooner. AIDS is not a virus but a set of symptoms (or syndrome) caused by the HIV virus. A person is said to have AIDS when their immune system is too weak to fight off infection, and they develop certain defining symptoms and illnesses. AIDS AND OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS Usually, it affects people in advanced stages of HIV disease, when the immune system is severely weakened. Bacterial infections, including tuberculosis and other serious related diseases, are more common in people with HIV/AIDS. People with HIV/AIDS are also more likely to have complications from common infections. Today, someone diagnosed with HIV and treated before the disease is far more likely to live a long life. People with AIDS have such badly damaged immune systems that they are more susceptible to a wide range of infections, including cancers and other diseases that people with healthy immune systems would not get. The two most common cancers associated with HIV/AIDS are Kaposi's sarcoma and AIDS-related non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Even with anti-retroviral treatment, over the long term HIV-infected people may experience neurocognitive disorders, osteoporosis, neuropathy, cancers, nephropathy, and cardiovascular disease. HIV/AIDS is a severely debilitating condition, not because of the disease itself but because of the myriad of opportunistic diseases that attack a person's immune system. AIDS, which stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, is a disease caused by an infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Today, someone diagnosed with HIV and treated before the disease is far more likely to live a long life. Without treatment, people with AIDS typically survive about 3 years. According to the CDC, 1,051,875 people in the U.S. have been diagnosed with AIDS since the disease was first diagnosed in 1981. They also have a higher risk of death. However, many people with HIV still develop OIs because they may not be taking their medication correctly. The HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) says that thanks to treatment advances, people with HIV can and do live long and healthy lives—almost 35 years since the world was introduced to the term AIDS. HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It's a virus that breaks down certain cells in your immune system (your body's defense against diseases that can cause AIDS). Early testing for HIV can help people stay healthy and reduce the spread of HIV. The risk factors for HIV include, high viral load, unprotected sex, and the presence of gum disease. Tests to stage disease and treatment are available. Treatment for age-related diseases is also available. Many people with HIV/AIDS find that talking to someone who has lived with the disease can help them understand it better. About Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection: symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment, even halt the disease progression that would otherwise have led to AIDS.