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Thread: [Man Officially Cured of HIV](#)

xSkilLedx - January 3, 2011, 9:25 am

[img]http://cache.gawkerassets.com/assets/images/4/2010/12/500x_cured.jpg[/img]

Quote:For the first time, a man has been declared officially cured of HIV. The remedy may nearly have killed him, but it opens a door—just a crack—to hope that we may someday kill off the scourge for good.

Strangely enough, the diagnosis that most concerned Timothy Ray Brown in 2007 was acute myeloid leukemia. HIV has been increasingly thought of as a manageable disease, though certainly a terribly burdensome one. What brought the 42-year old Brown under the care of Germany's Charite Universitätsmedizin Berlin hospital was the more immediate threat his cancer posed.

The treatment Brown underwent was aggressive: chemotherapy that destroyed the majority of his immune cells. Total body irradiation. Finally, a risky stem-cell transplant that nearly a third of patients don't survive—but that appears to have completely cured Brown of HIV.

Doctors were savvy when they chose a stem cell donor for Brown. The man whose bone marrow they used has a particular genetic mutation, present in an incredibly small percentage of people, that makes him almost invulnerable to HIV. With Brown's own defenses decimated by treatments, the healthy, HIV-resistant donor cells repopulated his immune system. The initial indications that the virus had abated were promising. But only just now, having taken no antiretroviral drugs since the transplant, and following extensive testing shows no signs whatsoever of HIV, have his doctors given the official word:

He's cured.

What does this mean for the future of treatment? It's not as though every HIV patient can or would want to go through the tremendous suffering that was prelude to Brown's recovery, or be able to afford the procedure if they could or did. But for the first time, we know that HIV can be cured, not just managed. It opens new avenues of research—gene therapy, stem cell treatments—that may otherwise have been thought dead ends.

Source: Gizmodo

Phenomenal - January 3, 2011, 9:32 am

Wow. Pretty much all I can say. Hope this can be made more safe and be used as a wide spread treatment.

Nice find.

RobotzInDisguise - January 3, 2011, 12:44 pm

Damn, now overpopulation will take over once this thing goes public.

Hodgy Beats - January 3, 2011, 1:08 pm

I do not want to sound like a party pooper and ruin's everyone's party, but H.I.V and aid's is not actually cured. The doctors couldn't find H.I.V in the man's system, but does it mean that it is gone?

The H.I.V could easily still be there, and it's hiding. It wouldn't have a problem hiding. This isn't a cure, but it is a huge step for those people who have aids. The reason why it is not a cure, is because it doesn't work on everybody. When the doctors conducted the bone marrow transplant to cure the H.I.V one in three people would die. Like I said, this still is a big advance though for those people who have H.I.V.