

# HIV / AIDS PATHOCHART

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

HIV is a virus transmitted through blood and body fluids that destroys specific immune cells (CD4). This leaves the body vulnerable and unable to fight off organisms that cause disease, even common infections. AIDS is the collection of symptoms that signify uncontrolled or end-stage HIV infection. AIDS patients are susceptible to opportunistic infections and cancers. There is no cure, but some treatments can help slow the progression of the disease.



Kaposi's Sarcoma - An opportunistic cancer common in AIDS.

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## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Frequent infections
- Wasting syndrome
- Fragile skin
- Stomatitis
- Malnutrition
- Dehydration
- Kaposi's sarcoma
- Candidiasis in mouth (thrush)

## DIAGNOSTICS

- CD4 count of <200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>
- WBC count low

## NURSING PRIORITIES

- Prevent and Manage Infection
- Address Nutritional Needs
- Promote Coping Skills
- End-of-Life Care

## THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Respiratory support
- Nutritional support
  - Small frequent meals
  - Provide favorite foods
- Monitor fluid and electrolyte balance
- Provide skin care
- Strict infection control precautions
- Conserve energy

## MEDICATION THERAPY

- HAART Therapy for HIV
- Antiemetics
- Analgesics
- Antibiotics