Scientists and researchers have been studying HIV and AIDS since the 1980s, and we now know a lot about them.

However, HIV mutates very quickly and there are various strains of the virus making scientific advances in the field difficult.

Here we discuss in more detail the way HIV is transmitted, prevented and progresses to AIDS; the various strains and types; the different stages of HIV infection in the body; and advances towards preventative measures such as vaccines and microbicides.
Searching for a cure for HIV and AIDS

There has been a lot of promising cure research but scientists can't yet completely remove HIV from the body.