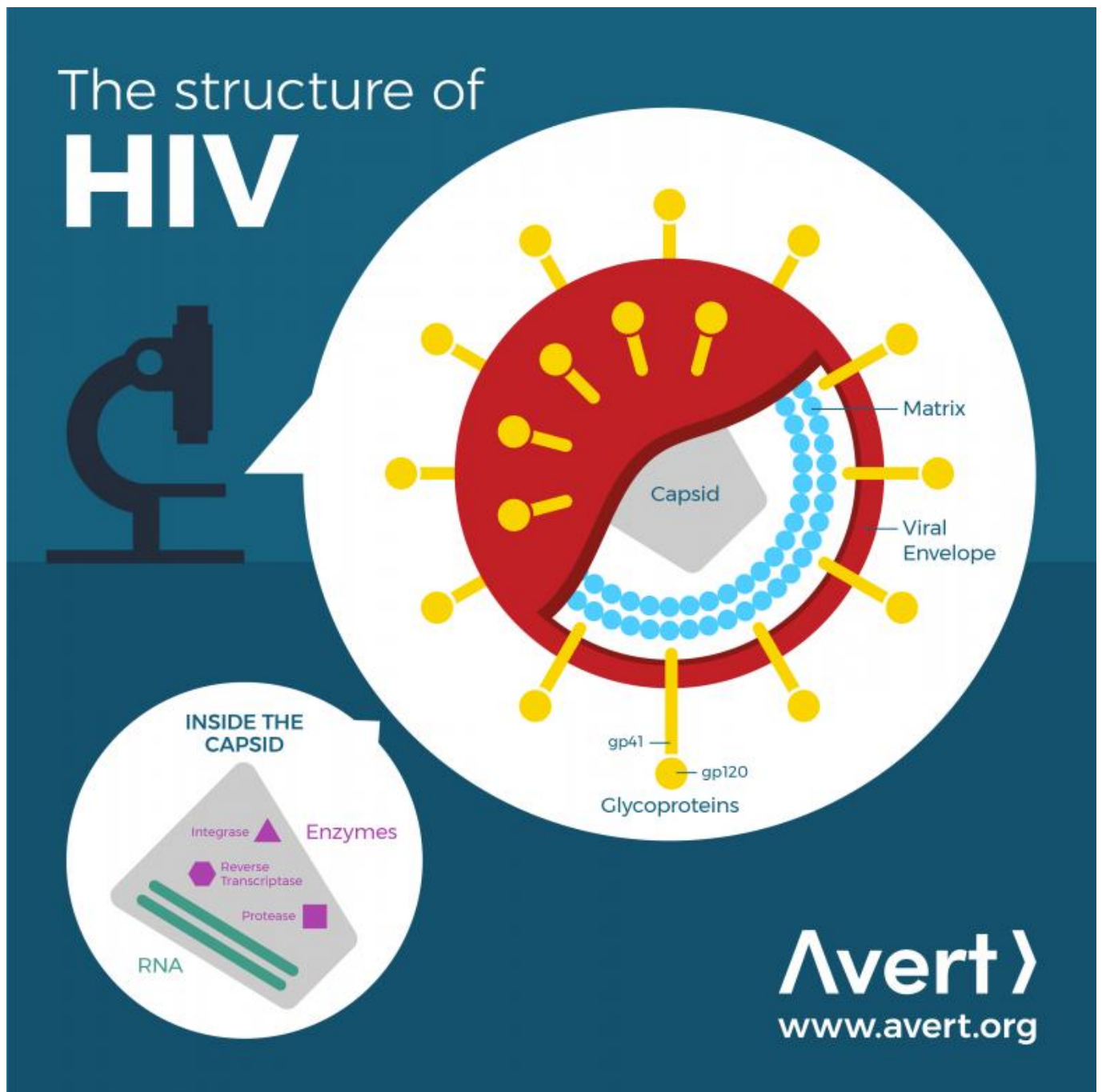


The structure of HIV

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Knowing the structure of HIV helps you to understand how it works, why the immune system finds it hard to detect, and how antiretroviral drugs can treat it. As a virus, HIV relies on our immune system to sustain itself and make copies. It's by interrupting these processes that we are able to reduce the amount of HIV in a person's body.



You can read more about the science of HIV [here](https://www.avert.org).