

## SESSION CHAT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

# Advanced HIV Disease (AHD): Re-positioning CD4 Testing at the center of care for clients with AHD

5th March 2026

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer	Answer Name
1	Thank you for this great informative presentation. In 2025 where the studies showed the high survival rate with early treatment, were those same toxic drugs still in use which was a criteria to hold treatment until CD4<350??	Anonymous Attendee	Today, the criteria is CD4+ cell count lower or higher than 200/mm3. If higher, you initiate ART. If lower you must receive AHD package of care before you initiate ART	Alani Sulaimon Akanmu
2	Good day, please I will like you to share this presentation with me after the training @ browsedeking@gmail.com, my name is Alaku Matthew Francis	Alaku Matthew Francis	We will share materials with all participants	Kofoworola Ayodele
3	Another important use case for CD4 is to identify PLHIV who are at risk for histoplasmosis infection. I would like to know whether Prof Sulaimon is seeing histoplasmosis in clinical practice? And whether he knows if FMOH of Nigeria is considering including this in their AHD package of care as per the current WHO AHD guidelines?	Pam Pillay	I did not have sufficient time to address this question during webinar. I guess you are a Nigerian and you have an idea that the Nigeria antiretroviral treatment programme expanded AHD killer diseases from 5 to 6 to include histoplasmosis. This was premised on the fact that 1) Pulmonary histoplasmosis may masquerade as pulmonary TB and the incountry histoplasmosis survey by Oladele et.al that showed that 11.6% of participants in the with CD4+ cell count < 50/mm3 were positive for urine hisplasmosis with positivity rates in those with CD4+ cell count of 51-100/mm3 and 101-200/mm3 being 5.9% and 5.5% respectively. We are yet to routinely programme for histoplasmosis	Alani Sulaimon Akanmu
4	This is Eyob from Ethiopia. What AI innovations much resilient in monitoring the level of CD4+ on HIV individuals in Africa?	Eyob Esatu	I replied to this question during the seminar. Perhaps I forgot to click the send button. I suggested Eyob Esatu can enlighten us if there is innovations he/she has in mind> My thought process is that Visitec strip could be subjected to machine learning so that after test conduct we may no longer require visual interpretation of test result	Alani Sulaimon Akanmu
5	we have experienced an issue of Visitect test trips not passing verification methods at our facility.	NAMUDDU JOAN KIZZA	Please can you share more details and we would be happy to discuss this further and guide in the <a href="#">troubleshooting process</a>	Kofoworola Ayodele
6	I thought we were going to see a scientific presentation, but it seems to be just advertising	Rodrigo Santos	You must have missed the first presentation. The materials will be shared with all	Kofoworola Ayodele
7	What factors can invalidate the tests?	Waqtola Cheneke	If you do not follow the steps of the tests. Common things might be, not following the steps of the timing of the assay or adding different volumes of buffer during the test procedure. Thank you for your question	Eman Aleksic
8	CD4 is measured with Flow cytometry	Rodrigo Santos	Usually this is the case when it is available	Eman Aleksic
9	For HIV client that is having CD4 less than 200 and TB LF LAM result shows positive do we need to do genexpert before starting TB treatment for TB?	Alaku Matthew Francis	The differential diagnosis of pos TB LF-LAM is extremely rare other than TB. You do NOT need genexpert to initiate TB therapy if urine TB-LF LAM has been reported positive	Alani Sulaimon Akanmu
10	Is it possible for community cadres to use VISITECT? Can someone self administer? I am asking this with self care in mind	Tonderai Mwareka	This is a professional use test. Not for self test	Kofoworola Ayodele
11	How do I access the training for testing cd4 in AHD?	John Mponda	We can give you access if you send me an email to <a href="mailto:GLC@healgen.com">GLC@healgen.com</a>	Eman Aleksic
12	thanks for the presentation. kindly expound on the recently introduced molecule of lenacapavir in relation to the HIV management.	Laban Nakeno	This molecule can be used to manage extensively treatment experienced persons with multiple mutations. It is now repurposed for PrEP particularly among the population, although small in number (about 1% of the general population) but are contributing more than 20% of new infection in many country. These are the key population members. It helps to assure adherence in this population and more than 95% effective in <a href="#">curtailing transmission</a>	Alani Sulaimon Akanmu
13	Hi Eman, thanks for the presentation! What was the method used for obtaining a CD4 reference count the CE Clinical Performance Evaluation Study & the WHO Prequalification Study?	Edine Tiemersma	Dear Edine, Thanks for your question and participation. I can share with you the Flow cytometry machines used. They vary across the sites. They range between FACS Acquios, Presto, and other machines.	Eman Aleksic

14	Bonjour, je voulais avoir une idée sur les résultats de contrôle de qualité de ces nouveaux tests de diagnostic rapide de CD4 par rapport aux appareils conventionnels	Issa SOGLI	J'aurais besoin de précisions supplémentaires concernant votre question, mais veuillez noter qu'un comité d'évaluation externe de la qualité (EEQ) a été mis en place pour améliorer le contrôle qualité sur VISITECT. Nous pourrions vous donner plus de détails après la réunion.	Kofoworola Ayodele
15	For RTT clients, how long would the client have missed ART before being tested for CD4 or AHD package of care?	Innocent Okpara	I guess RTT means return to care after IIT (interruption in treatment). There is no specific number of days agreed upon for you to decide you want to assess the returning to care for AHD. The time it takes for CD4+ cell count to start declining depends on several factors and is not same for every person. If an individual has syncytium inducing HIV variant, the CD4+ cell count will fall precipitously. IIT is currently defined as 28 days after expected day of last drug pick up. It used to be 90 days. I shall recommend that you treat the person as returning to care after 3 months of swallowing ARV- A recommendation this is!	
16	What are the costs of Visitect test?	Waltraud Seitz	Please contact us via infoaccubio@healgen.com and we can put you in contact with the team in your country	Eman Aleksic
17	Do i get a certificate of participation for this	Mosetsana America	Yes you do, a mail with these materials and a guide on how to access your certificate will be shared once the session materials are processed	Francis Ocen
18	Can the slides for both presentations be shared please?	Israel Audu	Slides will be shared	Eman Aleksic
19	1. Does Eman recomends the use of test kit pipette for venous blood?	Anonymous Attendee	We recommended the use of Calibrated Pipettes for venous testing. For fingerstick you may use a capillary sampling device to collect the blood from the finger	Eman Aleksic
20	Must presumptive TB clients be tested for CD4 before they are tested with TB LF LAM?	Innocent Okpara	TB should be tested for irrespective of CD4+ cell count. However the likelihood of positive TB-LF LAM result is high the lower the CD4+ cell count. On that premise you want to know the CD4+ cell count results for effective interpretation of your results!	
21	It looks like results interpretation on the VISITECT is subjective, given the qualitative nature of the test device	Chavwaluka Musonda	Going through the training and accessing the various materials available on our GLC will limit the subjectivity of the result interpretation .	Kofoworola Ayodele
22	Is there need to test the WHO stages 3 and 4 for CD4 on the AHD package of care?	Innocent Okpara	If you have access to CD4 testing this is recommend but according to the new WHO HIV guidelines, WHO Stage 3 and 4 =should be used where this is not available	Eman Aleksic
23	What are the common challenges faced with visitect testing?	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for your question, the most common issues are integrating the product outside of the traditional centralised healthcare centres. Also finding who will be able to perform the test since this is likely to be a decentralised health care centres and therefore Healthcare workers that have limited time. I hope this answers your question but feel free to contact me at eman.aleksic@healgen.com to discuss further. Most importantly how we have worked to overcome these issues	Eman Aleksic
24	Is the test device available in pharmacy premises for public purchase. Thank you	Achile Onoja	It is usually purchased by Governments for use in Health Care facilities. If you are interested to find out where VISITECT is available in your country, you may write to us at infoaccubio@healgen.com	Eman Aleksic
25	While CD4 is good for prognostication, VL assay is a treatment response monitoring test.  Point of need, current CD4, will determine who should be initiated on ART or not.  What is the directive in the case of a client on ART whose CD4 remains low in the face of low viraemia?	David Obatomi	While CD4 is good for prognostication, VL assay is a treatment response monitoring test. CORRECT, MANY THANKS  Point of need, current CD4, will determine who should be initiated on ART or not. 100% CORRECT What is the directive in the case of a client on ART whose CD4 remains low in the face of low viraemia This occurs in 3 scenarios a) In individuals with ICL i.e Inherited CD4+ T cell lymphocytopenia b) In adults with involuted Thymus gland and the T-cells can no longer mature and c) Individuals with false undetectable	
26	T. Henry Kohar srn If i am right, "The higher the CD4 cells above 200,000cells , the better the immunity and the lower the viral Load ( meaning the better patient outcome in the absence of other diseases)  At what level will the testing device for rapid testing may not detect the disease positive though may be present or undetectable if any such condition?	Henry Kohar	Dear Henry, Thank you for the question. I believe that the expectation is, when there is a high viral load the CD4 counts is low. However there are cases where patients can be discordant with this expectation. This is why the healthcare worker should look at all factors with the patient. Testing with VISITECT CD4 should at least identify the majority of patients who have low CD4 counts in order to manage their HIV progression.	Eman Aleksic/Francis

27	I am a Lab scientist with many years of professional experience. I have been trained on the TOT on the use of this VISITECT CD4 tests. However, this was detailed with tons of practice in test interpretation and the precautions to ensure accurate results. Also, the numerous results reporting practice as well was part of the practice.	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for your comment.	Eman Aleksic
----	--	--------------------	-----------------------------	--------------