Measurements of specific antibodies to different HIV antigens may have prognostic uses to stage the patient

- P24 antibodies appear as HIV enters latent period
- p24 antigens indicates active viral replication in acute HIV infection; disappears when virus enters latent phase; reappearance is a bad prognostic sign

- Culture of HIV difficult; peripheral blood mononuclear cells are better specimen; usual tissue culture cells do not support growth of virus

- Epidemiology:
  - Risk of infections high in bisexual males, IV drug abusers, sexual contacts of HIV-infected individuals, infants of infected mothers

- Treatment:
  - Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, protease inhibitors, inhibitors of viral entry into host cells
  - Treat infections resulting from immunosuppression

- Prevention:
  - Avoid contact with infected blood and blood products
  - Blood screening prior to transfusion
  - Maintain lifestyles that minimizes or eliminates high-risk factors