

Blood test figures in cancer risk for people with HIV

March 18 2022, by Paul Govern



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

In the clinical care of people living with HIV, various types of blood cells are routinely counted to assess the immune system, among them $CD4^+$ cells, or T helper cells, and $CD8^+$ cells, or cytotoxic T cells.

These types of white blood cells work together to clear infections and prevent and kill [cancer cells](#). While a normal CD4/CD8 ratio is about 2:1, it's typically lower in people with HIV.

A large observational study published March 16 in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* finds that, among adult patients with HIV, those who have lower CD4/CD8 ratios have a markedly higher risk of developing cancer.

Led by researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the study looked at data over a 20-year period from 83,893 [adult patients](#) with HIV in whom 5,628 cancer diagnoses occurred.

Infectious diseases specialist Jessica Castilho, MD, MPH, epidemiologist Staci Sudenga, Ph.D., and colleagues found that, compared to people with HIV whose CD4/CD8 ratios were in the top quartile (>.80), those whose ratios were in the bottom quartile (

Citation: Blood test figures in cancer risk for people with HIV (2022, March 18) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-03-blood-figures-cancer-people-hiv.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--