

Headline	Study links HIV infection to heart attack risk		
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Study links HIV infection to heart attack risk

BEING HIV-positive raises a person's heart attack risk by about 50 per cent, said a study released Monday that confirms earlier findings.

The study looked at 82,459 US veterans, the vast majority of them men. It was published in Archives of Internal Medicine, a publication of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

It said that in three age groups, the average incidence of heart attack was consistently and significantly higher for people who are HIV-positive, compared to uninfected veterans.

After adjusting for illness, smoking, alcohol consumption and risk factors such as high blood pressure and cholesterol, the HIV-positive subjects had a 50 per cent higher risk of heart attack.

The research was led by Matthew Freiberg of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Chronic activation of the immune system because of HIV infection prior to antiretroviral therapy seems to cause inflammation that speeds up the aging process and leaves a person more vulnerable to illnesses associated with aging. — AFP