

Headline	First baby to be cured of HIV		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	05 Mar 2013	Color	Black/white
Section	World	Circulation	136,530
Page No	33	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	80 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,305
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,914



First baby to be cured of HIV

CHICAGO: A baby girl in Mississippi who was born with HIV has been cured after very early treatment with standard HIV drugs, United States researchers reported on Sunday, in a potentially ground-breaking case that could offer insights on how to eradicate HIV infection in its youngest victims.

The child's story is the first account of an infant achieving a so-called functional cure, a rare event in which a person achieves remission without the need for drugs, and standard blood tests show no signs that the virus is making copies of itself.

More testing needs to be done to see if the treatment would have the same effect on other children. The results could change the way high-risk babies are treated and possibly lead to a cure for children with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"This is a proof of concept that HIV can be potentially curable in infants," said Dr Deborah Persaud, a virologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who presented the findings at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Atlanta.

Researchers believe use of the more aggressive anti-retroviral treatment when the child was just days old likely resulted in her cure by keeping the virus from forming hard-to-treat pools of cells known as viral reservoirs, which lie dormant and out of the reach of standard medications. **Reuters**