

Headline	US backed HIV vaccine fails to curb infections		
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# US-backed HIV vaccine fails to curb infections

**CHICAGO:** The National Institutes of Health on Thursday halted a study testing an experimental HIV vaccine after an independent review board found it did not prevent HIV infection and did not reduce the amount of HIV in blood.

The trial, started in 2009, was the latest in a series of failed HIV vaccine trials. The study, called HVTN 505, had enrolled 2,504 volunteers in 19 United States cities, and was looking at men who had sex with men and transgender people who had sex with men.

"This trial has provided a clear, swift answer about a specific vaccine strategy. It's not the answer we hoped for, but the search doesn't end here," Mitchell Warren, executive director of the nonprofit group AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention, said in a statement.

"Researchers need to unpack the data from this trial to understand why this strategy didn't work."

The review board had recommended that no further vaccinations be given. The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, which sponsored the study, said it would continue to follow participants to evaluate their data.

The HVTN 505 trial tested a two-part vaccine strategy designed to first prime the immune system and then provide a vaccine "boost". The vaccine was based on a common cold virus used to sneak HIV genes into the body and grab the attention of the immune system. **Reuters**