**AIDS Vaccine Testing Taking Place in South Africa**

**南非开展艾滋病疫苗临床试验**

Thursday is World AIDS Day.

星期四是世界艾滋病日。

For almost 30 years, the United Nations has marked World AIDS Day on December 1.

联合国近30年来都在12月1日纪念世界艾滋病日。

People often note the number of deaths from AIDS, short for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The virus has killed tens of millions of people since it was first identified in the 1980s.

人们时常会注意到艾滋病致死人数，艾滋病(AIDS)是获得性免疫缺陷综合症的简称。该病毒自上世纪80年代被首次确认以来，已经导致了数千万人死亡。

But on this World AIDS Day, there is more hope than ever before that researchers are getting close to finding a vaccine to protect against infection.

但是今年的世界艾滋病日比以往有了更大的希望，研究人员越来越接近找到一种可以预防感染的疫苗。

Much has happened since the first World AIDS Day observance in 1988. Countries where people did not talk about the virus now test people and treat those who are infected.

自从1988年第一次世界艾滋病日纪念活动以来发生了很多事情。没有听过这种病毒的国家现在都开始给人们做检查，并治疗感染者。

Mothers with HIV -- the virus that causes AIDS -- can give birth to healthy babies and live to raise them. Drugs can keep the virus from spreading.

感染了艾滋病毒的孕妇可以生下健康的婴儿，并活下去抚养他们。药物可以防止这种病毒蔓延。

And now, scientists are discussing the possibility that a vaccine and cure may be developed.

现在，科学家正在讨论开发出疫苗和治疗办法的可能性。

On Monday, researchers in South Africa began injecting thousands of volunteers with a possible vaccine.

周一，南非研究人员开始给数千名志愿者注射一种可能有效的疫苗。

Other researchers are examining whether the body's own defenses against disease can help fight the virus.

其他研究人员正在检查身体自有免疫系统是否有助于对抗这种病毒。

An American study shows this may be possible. One of the researchers was Pablo Tebas of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Tebas spoke to VOA on Skype.

美国一项研究表明这也许是可能的。宾夕法尼亚大学的帕布洛·特巴斯(Pablo Tebas)就是研究人员之一。特巴斯博士通过Skype接受了美国之音的采访。

"We infuse antibodies into the patients, the participants in the study, and we want to see if those antibodies will control the HIV virus -- will keep it quiet, and prevent the virus from coming back when we stop antiretroviral therapy."

他说，“我们将抗体注入参与这项研究的患者体内，希望看到这些抗体是否能控制艾滋病毒，将它抑制住，并且防止该病毒在停止抗逆转录病毒治疗时重新出现。”

The research in controlling HIV with antibodies is similar to that being done in the fight against cancer. Proteins are used to attack cancer cells. Like cancer, HIV hides in cells. If a person stops taking anti-AIDS drugs, the virus returns.

用抗体控制艾滋病毒的研究和抗击癌症所进行的研究类似。蛋白质被用于攻击癌症细胞。艾滋病毒跟癌症一样隐藏在细胞之中。如果患者停止服用抗艾滋病毒药物，病毒就会重新出现。

"You want to eliminate the cells that harbor the virus and by making the immune system more active, in finding and eliminating those cells."

特巴斯说，“我们想要清除携带病毒的细胞，并且通过让免疫系统更加活跃以发现和清除这些细胞。”

The researchers discovered that the antibodies suppressed HIV for 21 days. The goal is to find a combination of antibodies that can suppress the virus for six months to a year. Then, those infected will no longer have to take medicine every day for the rest of their lives.

研究人员发现这种抗体可以抑制艾滋病毒长达21天。他们的目标是找到一种可以抑制病毒达到半年到一年的抗体组合。然后，感染者就不再需要在余生中每天都服药。

A new test using two antibodies should begin in the next few months.

使用两种抗体的新的试验将在未来几个月开始进行。

I'm Anne Ball.

安妮·波尔报道。

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**Words in This Story**

**infuse** – v. to cause (something, such as a quality) to be added or introduced into a person or thing

**antibody** – n. a substance produced by the body to fight disease

**participant** – n. a person who is involved in an activity or event; a person who participates in an activity or event (often + in)

**antiretroviral therapy** - n. medicines used to control and suppress HIV, the virus that causes AIDS

**harbor** – v. to hold or contain (something)