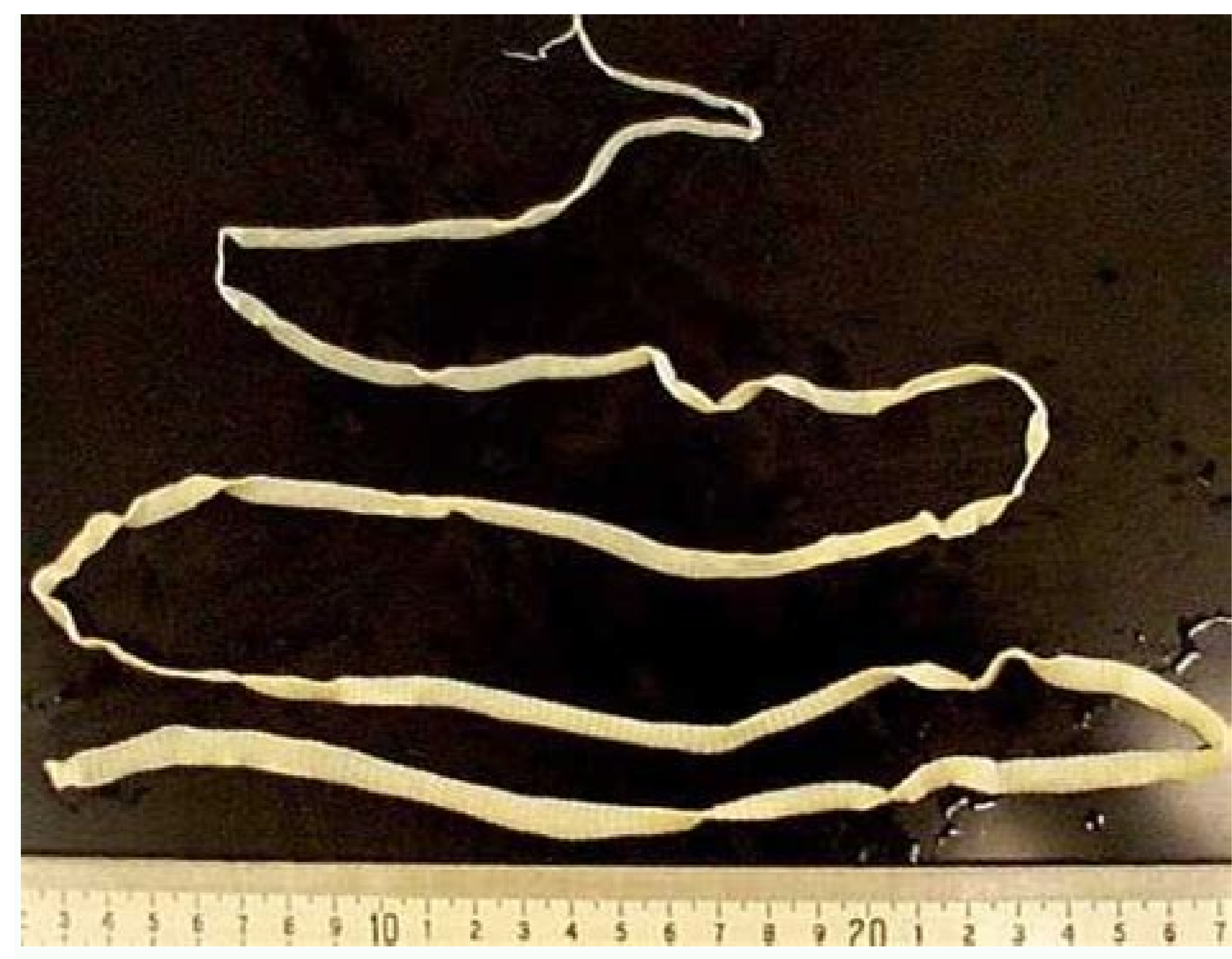


**Blood culture test report time**

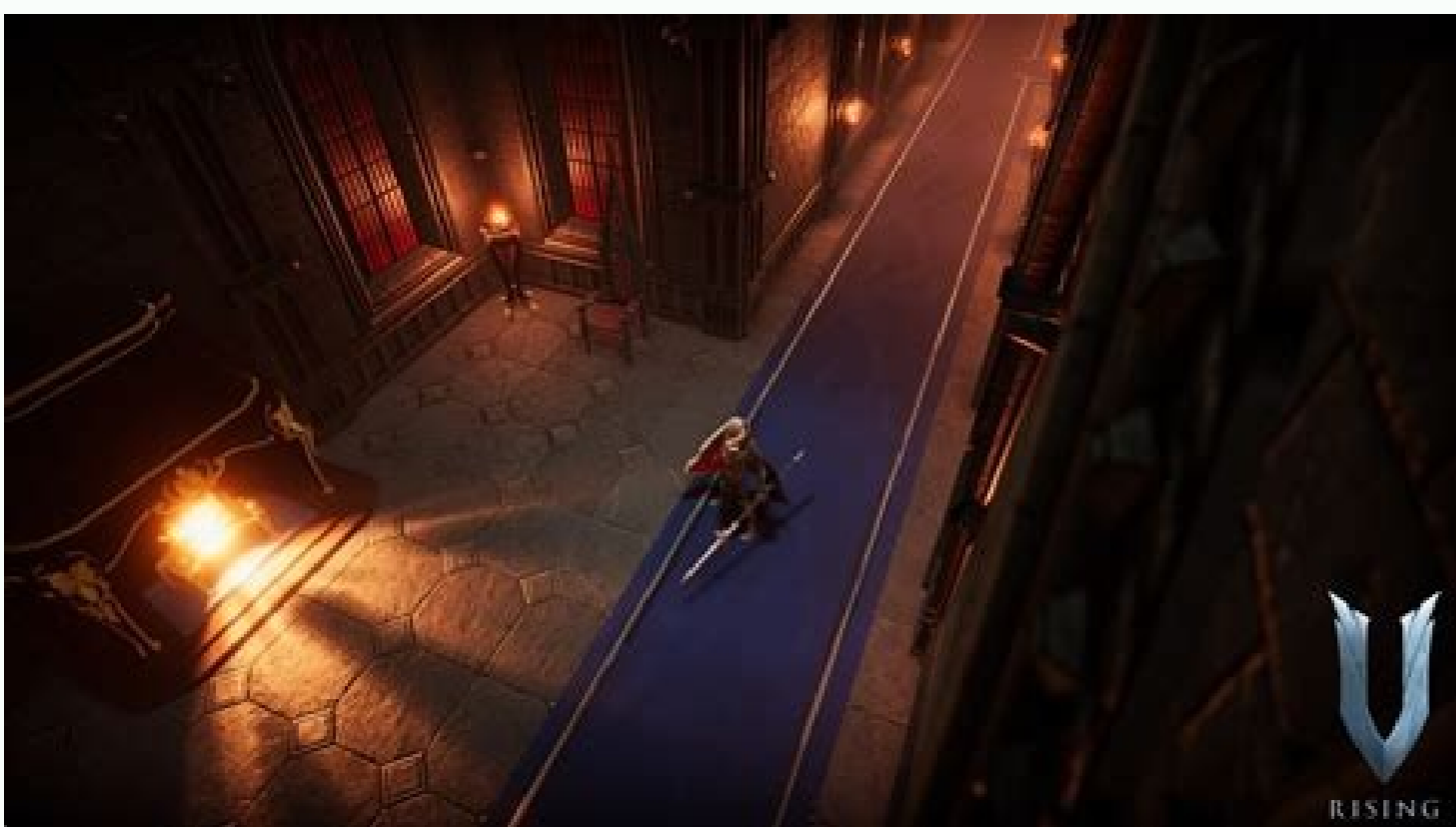
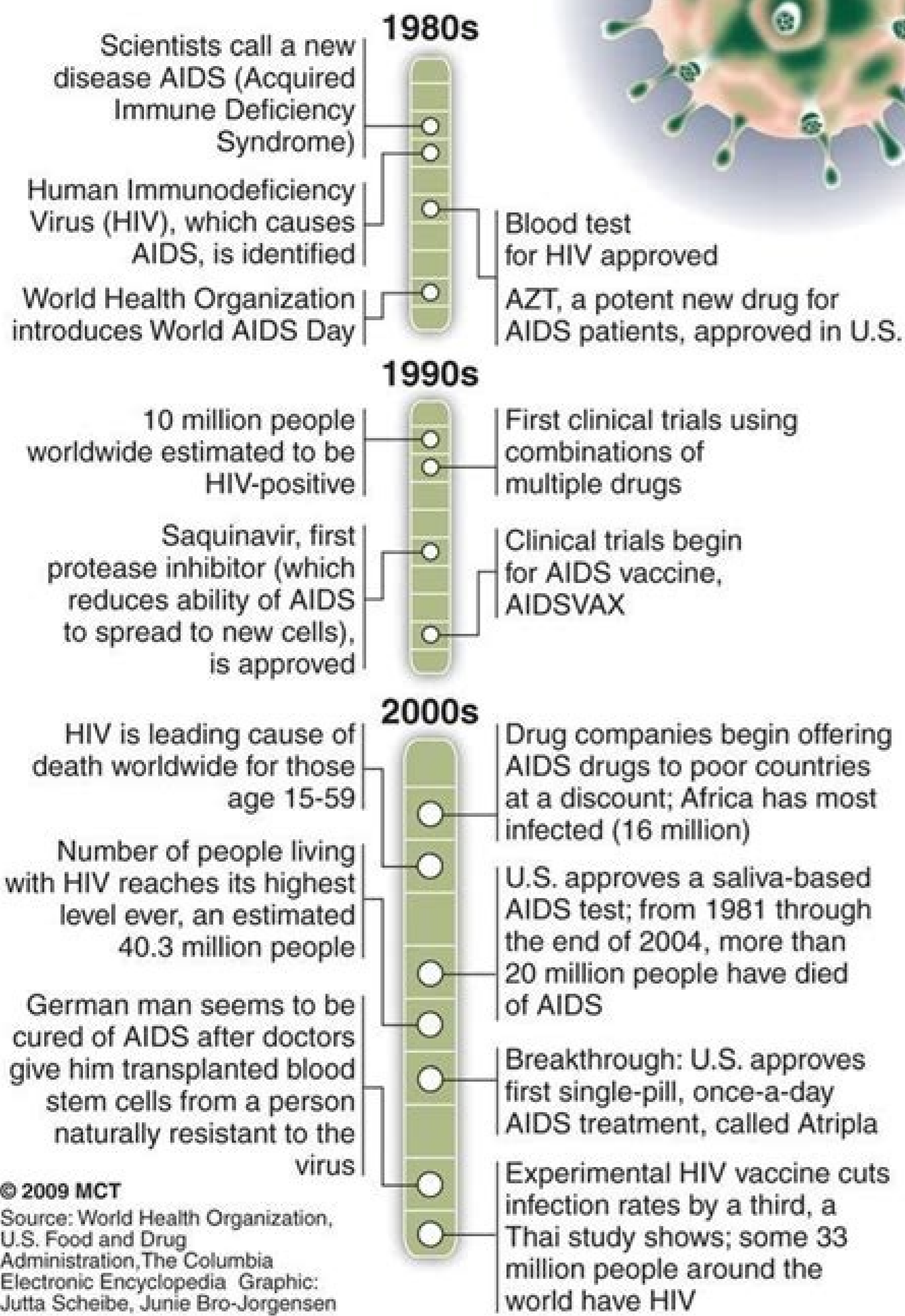
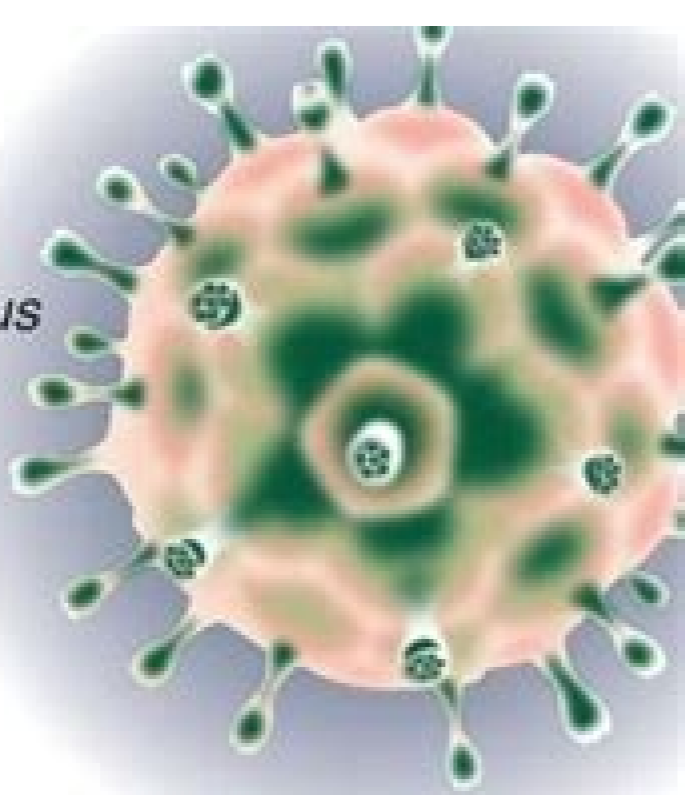
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# HIV/AIDS epidemic

## key events

AIDS virus



What does blood culture test show. How long does it take to run a blood culture test. What blood culture test shows.

The blood culture test is used to detect and identify bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms in your bloodstream. The presence of these foreign invaders in the blood may indicate an infection in the blood, known as Bacteremia. This infection involves the blood that flows in your entire body. Common sources of blood infections are bacteria that grow in your gastrointestinal tract, lungs, skin or urine. This infection can spread to your blood and turn into systemic, a most severe condition known as sepsis. The blood culture test is a simple blood test, and a positive blood culture test indicates the presence of bacteria in your bloodstream. Purpose Of Blood Culture Test. A blood culture test is ordered when your doctor suspects that you have a blood infection. It's extremely important to test for sepsis since it's a serious life-threatening complication. In this condition, the foreign invaders impede the functioning of your immune system as well as interfere with normal defenses of your body. The toxins produced by foreign invaders may damage your internal organs. With the test results, your doctor can ascertain the type of bacteria which is causing the infection as well as a way to combat the bacteria. Why Would I Need One? You need to visit the doctor as early as possible if you have any of the blood infection symptoms such as- High or moderate fever Shivering or Shaking chills Rapid or shallow breathing Fatigue Fast heart rate Muscle pain Headache If you never undergo treatment, the infection can turn to sepsis. The symptoms associated with sepsis, besides those mentioned above are- Mottled skin( a condition characterised by a red-purplish appearance on the skin) Mental confusion Dizziness Nausea Low urine output With the progression of sepsis, you may experience more severe complications such as- Multiple organ failure Inflammation all over the body Blood clots in the smallest blood vessels Dangerous drop in blood pressure Risk Factors If you're at higher risk of getting a blood infection, then you need to undergo a blood culture test on a regular basis. If you have any of the conditions as listed out below, then you're at higher risk. Cancer AIDS or HIV Diabetes An autoimmune disease. You are at risk if you recently had/undergone- There is a higher risk of developing a blood infection in older adults as well. Children and a newborn who has a fever, with no symptoms of sepsis need to undergo a blood culture test. Risks Of A Blood Culture Test. Blood culture tests rarely cause any side effects, which are serious. After the blood draw, you may experience- Loss of consciousness Heavy bleeding Infection Bleeding under skin Blood Culture Procedure There is no preparation required prior to a blood culture test. Before a blood culture test, you need to inform your doctor regarding the nutritional supplements and medications that you take. Sometimes the doctor asks you to stop taking some medicines since it can impact your test results. During the test, your puncture site is cleaned and the diagnostic center staff will tie an elastic band around your arm so that the vein fills with blood and becomes more visible. Different blood samples are taken, from different veins in your arm. This is done so that it's much easier to detect microorganisms in your blood. Soon after the blood draw, the healthcare provider will cover the puncture site to stop further bleeding using a gauze. Your blood sample is thereafter cultured in the microbiology lab. For blood culture, each sample of blood is added to the broth, a substance that promotes the growth of microorganisms in your blood sample. Results Of A Blood Culture Test A positive blood culture indicates that you have bacteria or yeast in your bloodstream. Negative or normal blood culture results indicate that there is no presence of bacteria or fungus in your bloodstream. With the test results, your doctor can identify the type of bacteria or fungi, which is causing the infection. Based on the type of microorganism in your bloodstream, your doctor may order a susceptibility or sensitivity test. Your doctor can determine the medication that works well against the microorganism, with this test. This test is usually conducted as a follow-up of the blood culture test, where the results are positive. If you're tested positive for a blood culture test, then you need to undergo a treatment- broad-spectrum antibiotics, a medication that helps fight the microorganisms while you await the results of your sensitivity test. Bacteria becomes visible within 2 to 3 days, and certain types of bacteria can take 10 or more days to become visible. Fungus becomes visible in the culture within 30 days. You're at high risk if you have a weak immune system in case sepsis develops and you need to undergo treatment at once. Inform your doctor beforehand if you're experiencing blood infection symptoms or if you're at risk of developing a blood infection since it can lead to serious health complications in future. Immediately inform your doctor if you have a moderate or high fever for more than 3 days. Equally important is fever in infants below 3 months, who require immediate medical attention. Frequently Asked Questions Why are blood cultures taken from 2 sites? For a blood culture test, multiple blood samples are taken, from different veins in your arm to detect microorganisms present in small numbers. With the test, your doctor can confirm that the detected microorganism is responsible for the infection and not contaminants. Why do the test results take so long? The microorganisms should grow to sufficient numbers in the broth before the microorganisms can be identified, and normally takes a few days. But in the case of some microorganisms, it takes much longer. Added to that, certain microorganisms are present in small numbers in our blood and take much time to reproduce and grow to sufficient numbers that can be identified. When should blood cultures be taken? Blood cultures should be taken after a recurrent sharp rise of fever and prior to any antimicrobial therapy. It should also be taken when your doctor suspects Bacteremia. What happens if the blood culture is positive? A positive blood culture indicates that you have bacteria or yeast in your bloodstream. If you're tested positive for more than one blood culture test for the same microorganism, it indicates that it is the type of microorganism which is causing the infection. Is fasting required for a blood culture test? Whether you eat and drink prior to the test won't affect your results. You can eat and normally drink before the test. Why is Blood culture done? The blood culture test is used to detect bacterial infections, fungal infections, type of bacteria which is causing the infection, and diagnose endocarditis. Blood culture is also used to ascertain the cause of unexplained fever, and to determine the best antibiotic that works well against the microorganism. Which media is used for blood culture? Blood is injected into bottles with a medium for aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms. The broth is the common medium used for anaerobic microorganisms. It promotes the growth of microorganisms in your blood sample. Blood culture A blood culture is a test that checks for foreign invaders like bacteria, yeast, and other microorganisms in your blood. Having these pathogens in your bloodstream can be a sign of a blood infection, a condition known as bacteremia. A positive blood culture means that you have bacteria in your blood. This type of infection involves the blood that circulates within your entire body. Bacteria that start on your skin or in your lungs, urine, or gastrointestinal tract are common sources of blood infections. An infection can spread to your blood and become systemic if it's severe or if your immune system isn't able to keep it contained. A systemic infection is known as sepsis. The test for a blood culture involves a simple blood draw. A laboratory tests the blood sample and forwards the results to your doctor, who will use the findings to help determine what's needed to treat any infection. Blood cultures are ordered when your doctor suspects you may have a blood infection. It's important to test for blood infections because they can lead to serious complications. One such complication of a blood infection is sepsis. In sepsis, the pathogens that are causing the infection in your bloodstream interfere with your body's normal defenses and prevent your immune system from working properly. The pathogens also produce toxins that can damage your organs. The results of the test can help your doctor determine which specific organism or bacteria is causing the blood infection and how best to combat it. Symptoms of blood infection and sepsis You should call 911 or visit a doctor immediately if you're experiencing any symptoms of a blood infection. These include: shaking chills moderate or high fever rapid breathing increased heart rate or palpitation excessive fatigue muscle aches headache Without treatment, a blood infection can progress to its most severe stage, sepsis. The symptoms of sepsis include those listed above, as well as signs of damaged organs. The following are additional symptoms of sepsis: confusion decreased urination dizziness nausea mottled skin As the infection progresses, more serious complications of sepsis may develop. These can include: inflammation throughout your body formation of many tiny blood clots in your smallest blood vessels a dangerous drop in blood pressure failure of one of more organs Blood infection risk factors Blood cultures are done more frequently for those who are at a higher risk of developing a blood infection. You're at a higher risk if you've been diagnosed with: diabetes HIV or AIDS Scarcen autoimmune disease The following situations also put you at risk for blood infection: You've recently had an infection. You've recently had a surgical procedure. You've had a prosthetic heart valve replacement. You're undergoing immunosuppressive therapy. Blood cultures are also drawn more frequently in newborns and children with fever who may have an infection but don't have the typical signs and symptoms of sepsis. Older adults are also at higher risk for blood infections. Blood culture for other conditions A blood culture can also be used to detect conditions such as endocarditis. Endocarditis is a condition that occurs when bacteria in your bloodstream sticks to your heart valves. It can be life-threatening. Complications you may experience from this test only occur when you give blood. However, blood draws are routine procedures and rarely cause any serious side effects. The risks of giving a blood sample include: bleeding under your skin, or hematoma excessive bleeding fainting infection Tell your doctor what kinds of medication you're taking, including prescriptions and nutritional supplements. They may ask you to stop taking certain medications that may affect the blood culture results. If you're wary of needles, talk to your doctor or your nurse to discuss ways to ease your anxiety. The blood draw may be performed in a hospital, emergency department, or specialized testing facility. Blood cultures are rarely done in an outpatient setting. To start, your skin is cleaned to prevent any microorganisms on your skin from contaminating the test. Your nurse or technician then usually wraps a cuff or an elastic band around your arm to allow your veins to fill with blood and become more visible. They next use one needle to draw several samples of blood from your arm. Multiple blood samples are generally collected from different veins to help increase the chance of detecting the bacteria or fungi in your bloodstream. If you're an adult, your doctor or healthcare team usually collects two to three blood samples, often drawn on different visits. After the draw, your nurse or technician covers the puncture site with some gauze and a bandage. The blood sample is then submitted to a laboratory where it's cultured: Each blood sample is added to a bottle containing a liquid known as broth. The broth encourages any microorganisms present in the blood sample to grow. If the blood culture is positive, this means you have a bacterial or yeast infection in your blood. The results usually help your doctor identify the specific bacteria or fungi that's causing the infection. Depending on the type of organism discovered in your blood, your doctor will perform another test called a sensitivity or susceptibility test. This helps determine which specific medication will work best against that organism. It's standard practice to run a sensitivity test as a follow-up to a positive blood culture test. It can also be done when an infection isn't responding to treatment. If your doctor suspects that you have a blood infection, they may begin treatment right away via intravenous broad-spectrum antibiotics. This medication can start fighting a wide range of bacteria while you're waiting for the blood culture or susceptibility testing results. Blood infections require immediate treatment, usually in a hospital. If sepsis develops, it can be life threatening, especially if you have a weakened immune system. If you have sepsis, you'll be hospitalized so you can be completely treated. Blood infections can lead to serious complications, so talk to your doctor if you're at risk or if you're showing any symptoms. Any fever lasting longer than three days should always be evaluated by a doctor or other healthcare provider. If an infant younger than 3 months has a fever, they should be seen by a doctor immediately.



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