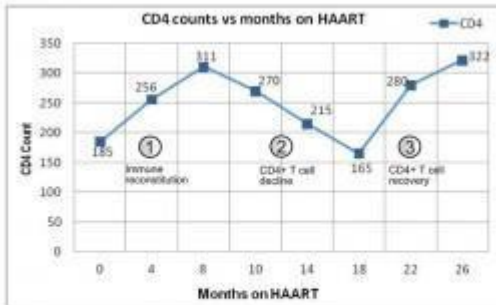


Declining CD4 count

Declining CD4 count



Initiation of antiretroviral therapy with a regimen containing didanosine (ddI) and tenofovir (TDF) results in an initial immune re-constitution and control of viraemia. However, a decline in CD4+ T cell count is later observed despite the adequate control of viraemia. The decline in CD4+ count is rectified by a change in drug regimen revealing an underlying drug toxicity effect on CD4+ T cell proliferation.

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In this series of graphics we describe how the initiation of antiretroviral therapy with a regimen containing, in part, Didanosine (ddI) and Tenofovir (TDF) results first in immune re-constitution and viraemic control. Then after a short time how this is followed by a decline in the CD4+ T cell count despite the adequate control of viraemia. Finally how the CD4+ count recovers and is rectified by a change in drug regimen revealing an underlying drug toxicity effect on CD4+ T cell proliferation.

The graphics further depict how ddI and TDF are metabolised and interact to ultimately cause impairment of DNA synthesis and cell apoptosis following mitochondrial toxicity.

Associated Case Study – [Declining CD4 count, despite viral suppression?](#)

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