

# AIDS Health Fraud

*AIDS FRAUD is any false, misleading or unproven claim about the cure, treatment or prevention of HIV/AIDS.*



## Zappers

*Claim:* Kills disease-causing parasites in the body with electricity; an effective cure for cancer and HIV/AIDS.

*Truth:* There is no basis to substantiate these claims. While laboratory studies show that electricity can kill HIV in a test tube, there is no evidence of the same in humans.

*Outcome:* The FTC recently charged companies with making unsubstantiated efficacy claims for this device. In the past FDA has sent warning letters to Zapper manufacturers.



## Ozone Generators

*Claim:* Increases oxygen in the blood, boosts the immune system, and treats HIV/AIDS and cancer.

*Truth:* Ozone generators do not treat these diseases. In high amounts ozone can be dangerous.

*Outcome:* Some promoters of these devices have received warning letters. Others have been prosecuted and sentenced to pay fines, restitution, and serve time in prison.



## Immunostim

*Claim:* Boosts a person's immune system and combats a multitude of diseases such as cancer, AIDS, and MS.

*Truth:* A medical doctor and a man pretending to be a Ph.D. sold people with HIV this dangerous product, which turned out to be a homemade concoction similar to a household drain cleaner.

*Outcome:* The doctor lost his license to practice medicine and was sentenced to serve time in jail. His partner went to jail for five years.

## T-UP

*Claim:* Promoted by mass mailings with an audio-tape "*There is Hope: You Do Not Have To Die!*" to treat AIDS and cancer.

*Truth:* Patients were charged thousands of dollars for a two-week treatment with intravenous aloe vera, an ineffective treatment for HIV/AIDS.

*Outcome:* The promoter was sentenced to serve time in prison and to pay restitution for selling this product.





Bogus HIV-Testing Kits

## Bogus HIV-Testing Kits

**Claim:** Can diagnosis HIV.

**Truth:** As of 2003 no HIV home test kits have been approved by the FDA except the Home Access Express HIV-1 Test System®.

**Outcome:** In 1999 a California man was sentenced to five years in jail for marketing and selling medically useless HIV test kits for home use.



Colloidal Silver

## Colloidal Silver

**Claim:** Can cure or treat many problems including HIV/AIDS, cancer, and TB.

**Truth:** Colloidal silver has not been shown to be safe. Over-the-counter medicine containing colloidal silver cannot be marketed in the U.S. and extended use can cause argyria, a permanent blue/gray discoloration of the skin, eyes, and organs.

**Outcome:** The FDA has issued more than 20 “cyber” warning letters to website promoters of this product by the FDA.

## How can you tell? (Q-U-A-C-K-S)

**Quick Fix** - Be wary of claims that a product can provide a quick cure. Few diseases can be treated quickly.

**Undocumented personal testimonials** - Avoid products promoted by personal testimonials and second-hand reports by marketers of unknown or questionable backgrounds.

**“All Natural”** - Don't be fooled this term. It is often used as an attention-grabber to suggest the product is safe. “Natural” does not mean “safe.” Disease-causing bacteria are also “all natural.”

**Cure/Cure-all** - If a product were a cure, it would be widely reported in the media, not hidden in obscure ads. Also beware of a product that is being promoted as a cure for a wide variety of ailments.

**Key words** - Promotions that use words like “scientific breakthrough,” “secret ingredient,” “miraculous cure,” “ancient remedy,” “exclusive product,” or “magical” are highly suspect.

**PseudoScience** or solely using science from other countries - Be skeptical of products promoted with meaningless medical jargon. Clinical trials conducted in other countries are accepted by the FDA if they meet U.S. quality standards.

Be wary of products with:

- High unexplained, unwarranted costs
- “Money-back guarantees”
- Limited availability and advance payment

### Questions to Ask:

- Is the product or treatment available from multiple sources? If not, why not?
- What evidence do you have that the product or treatment works?
- Can you provide printed material?
- Has the product/treatment been approved by FDA or the CA Dept. of Health Services?
- What use was it approved for?
- What training or experience in treating HIV/AIDS does the provider have?
- What are the risks of using this product or treatment?

### For more information about AIDS treatments check with:



Clinical trial info: 1-800-TRIALS-A  
National AIDS Hotline: 1-800 342-AIDS  
California AIDS Hotline: 1-800-367-AIDS  
Project Inform: 1-800-334-7422 (California)

You can also contact

The Health Fraud Task Force of California  
1-800-459-4503 or [www.aidsfraud.com](http://www.aidsfraud.com).