

PEDIATRIC AIDS

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degree of Master of Dental Surgery and Preventive
Dentistry

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INTRODUCTION

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) that now is spreading has received world wide attention in the lay and professional. Infection with immunodeficiency virus has been the most significant disease to effect our society during the last decade. AIDS stands for the acronym, **acquired immune deficiency syndrome**, which is acquired through life by a retrovirus which causes profound immunosuppression rendering the host susceptible to the development of various opportunistic infection and neoplasm. HIV, the name was given in 1986 by the international committee on virus, nomenclature. It belongs to the lentivirus or slow virus a subgroup of family retroviridae.

AIDS was first recognised as a disease in 1981, by the centre for disease control in united states⁵. Since then more than half a million people world wide are estimated to have developed AIDS and 8 million people to have been infected with HIV. By the end of this century AIDS will have developed in 6 million people and 18 million are expected to be infected with HIV¹¹.

AIDS was first recognised in children in 1982. HIV infection in children was first described in 1983 in New Jersey, Newyork and SanFransisco⁶².

By 1987, AIDS had become the ninth leading cause of death for children between 1-4 years in united states. The principal risk factor for