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## ColoPlus, a new product based on bovine colostrum, alleviates HIV-associated diarrhoea.

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## Abstract

OBJECTIVE: HIV-associated diarrhoea occurs in nearly all patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the developing countries. Diarrhoea is caused by the HIV-related immune dysfunction and is pivotal in the decrease of the helper T-cell (CD4 + ) population. Enteric pathogens in HIV-associated diarrhoea are, for example, Cryptosporidium, Amoeba and Campylobacter species. Bovine colostrum is the first milk the suckling calf receives from the cow. It is rich in immunoglobulins, growth factors, antibacterial peptides and nutrients. It supplies the calf with a passive immunity before its own active immunity is established. ColoPlus is a product based on bovine colostrum and is designed for slow passage through the gastrointestinal tract, as well as having a high nutritional value. The aim of the study was to investigate whether ColoPlus given orally can influence the severe diarrhoea associated with HIV infection.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: The study was carried out at Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Thirty patients with HIV-associated diarrhoea were included in the study. The patients were treated with ColoPlus for 4 weeks in an open-labelled non-randomized study, after an observational period of one week. After a post-treatment period of another two weeks, treatment with anti-HIV drugs was started, if deemed appropriate. The effects on the frequency of stool evacuations per day, on body-weight, fatigue, haemoglobin levels and CD4+counts before (week 1) and after treatment with ColoPlus (week 7) were measured.

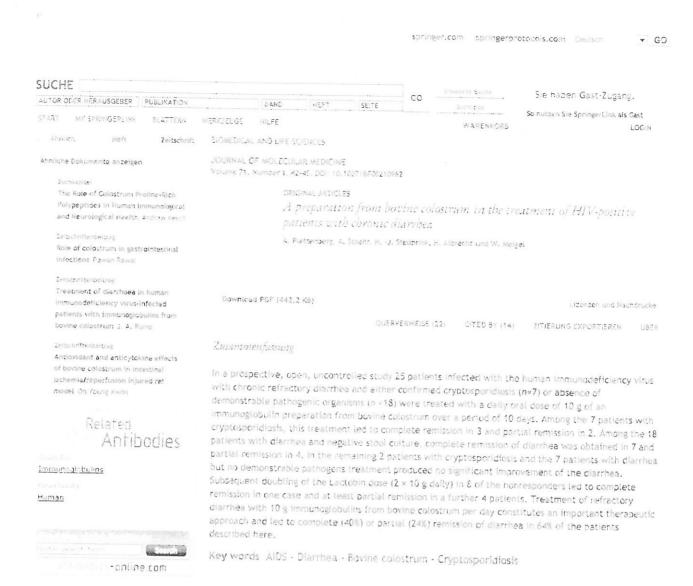
**RESULTS:** There was a dramatic decrease in stool evacuations per day from 7.0+/-2.7 to 1.3+/-0.5 (+/-SD), a substantial decrease in self-estimated fatigue of 81%, an increase in body-weight of 7.3 kg per patient and an increase in CD4+ count by 125%.

**CONCLUSION**: ColoPlus may be an important alternative or additional treatment in HIV-associated diarrhoea.

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## A preparation from bovine colostrum in the treatment of HIV-positive patients with chronic diarrhea

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