## HIV/AIDS: A Comprehensive Guide to Health and Medical Issues

Word Wise

HIV/AIDS (Health and Medical Issues Today)

 ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ 5 out of 5
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HIV/AIDS is a global health crisis that has affected millions of people worldwide. The virus, HIV, attacks the immune system, making people more vulnerable to other infections and diseases. AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV infection and can be fatal if left untreated.

#### Transmission

HIV is primarily transmitted through unprotected sexual contact with an infected person. It can also be transmitted through sharing needles or other drug paraphernalia with someone who is infected. HIV is not transmitted through casual contact, such as shaking hands or hugging.

#### Symptoms

The symptoms of HIV can vary depending on the stage of the infection. In the early stages, people may experience flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes. As the infection progresses, people may develop more serious symptoms, such as weight loss, thrush, and opportunistic infections.

#### Diagnosis

HIV is diagnosed through a blood test. The test checks for the presence of HIV antibodies, which are produced by the body in response to the virus. A positive HIV test result means that the person is infected with HIV.

#### Treatment

There is no cure for HIV, but there are treatments that can help people manage the infection and live longer, healthier lives. These treatments, known as antiretroviral therapy (ART),work by suppressing the virus and preventing it from multiplying.

#### Prevention

There are several ways to prevent HIV infection, including:

- Using condoms during sexual activity
- Avoiding sharing needles or other drug paraphernalia with others
- Getting tested for HIV regularly
- Taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which is a medication that can help prevent HIV infection in high-risk individuals

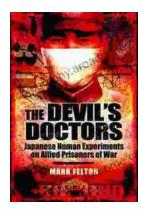
HIV/AIDS is a serious health issue, but it is one that can be managed with proper treatment and care. By understanding the virus, its transmission, and its symptoms, you can help protect yourself and others from infection.

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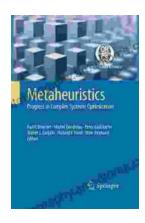
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