



## Informationen

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### Bayer on Factor VIII and AIDS

Rumours have been circulating on the Stock Exchange and in the media that subsidiaries of Bayer Leverkusen have, in the past, marketed blood plasma products which were infected with the AIDS virus. The following is Bayer's response to these rumours.

A Bayer subsidiary is one of several producers of so-called Factor VIII products, which are derived from human blood plasma. These products have been successfully established for about 20 years and are essential in keeping haemophiliacs alive.

When the AIDS virus was identified the possibility could not be ruled out that infections may be transmitted in plasma products. Bayer, in conjunction with the authorities, reacted immediately and changed the Factor VIII production process. Among the measures adopted, in each case in line with the state of scientific knowledge at the time, were:

- greater selectivity by rejecting members of risk-groups as blood plasma donors,
- investigation of donated plasma for anti-bodies against the virus known as HIV,
- development of specific processes for deactivating viruses by heat.

Factor VIII preparations produced in this way therefore, according to current scientific knowledge, carry no AIDS risk.

Bayer has received some claims for damages from patients who have been treated with Factor VIII products. These claims are currently under investigation. One aspect of the investigation is the question of which of the various manufacturers supplied the product. Should, in a particular case, a claim be justified, Bayer is covered by comprehensive insurance.

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