

HIV infection at a glance

Epidemiology

Prevalence

Global pandemic

Age

Predominantly young adults and children born to mothers with HIV

Findings on investigation

Haematology

Platelets decrease in some patients

Haemoglobin decreases in some people with end-stage disease

Serology

HIV antibody positive

Immunology

CD4 lymphocyte count decreases with time

Clinical features

Seroconversion illness

'Flu-like symptoms 2–3 months after infection

Asymptomatic phase

Lymphadenopathy

Symptomatic disease

Fever

Weight loss

Lethargy

Diarrhoea

Opportunistic infection

Neoplasia

Dementia

Wasting



Fig. A Chest X-ray showing lung shadowing consistent with *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia.



Fig. B Ring enhancement in Toxoplasmosis. Reproduced from Leach, *Critical Care at a Glance* (Blackwell Publishing, Oxford) with permission.