



The HIV virus attacks healthy cells

Fears over suspect HIV test kit

A SUSPECT HIV self-test kit scandal is being investigated by gardai.

The dodgy home-testers could tell HIV sufferers they do not have the killer condition even if they are infected.

Irish company Celtic Integrated Network were forced to withdraw the devices last week.

Health bosses feared HIV victims who were given the all-clear by the test kits could accidentally spread the deadly condition.

Last night, the Irish Medicines Board

By NIAL DONALD

slammed the company - saying the faulty testers posed a serious risk.

A spokesman said: "The IMB identified a HIV test kit that does not meet the requirements of legislation.

"These kits may not work properly and thus provide unreliable results, posing a risk to public health."

Celtic Integrated Network supplied pharmacies and sold the tests directly over the internet. The IMB spokesman

said the self-test kits were not safe.

He said: "This could mean people who are HIV positive being told they are not. But it could also mean people who are HIV negative being told they have caught the condition."

The IMB spokesman said: "Some of these test kits have been assembled from components of other kits that have been shown to be past their expiry date."

They are now calling on people to return their test-kits to their pharmacy.

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TATTOO CLUE TO HARBOUR BODY

Gardai release pictures

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

GARDAI yesterday released these pictures of the tattoos on a drowned man's body in a desperate bid to identify him.

The bloated corpse was found floating in Howth harbour by a passer-by last Wednesday. But the man had no ID on him and no one has reported anyone similar as missing.

His tattoos include a hooded executioner with an axe on his right calf. His left shoulder bears the image of a cloaked upper-body skeleton with serpents, and he has what looks like a dragon or crocodile on his right shoulder.

Garda yesterday ruled out foul play following a postmortem examination but refused to reveal the results.

It is believed the man drowned. Gardai are treating the death as suicide as the body was discovered with a rope and a chain wrapped around its legs.

The man is described as white, 5ft 10in, of average build, with brown hair and aged between his late 20s and early 40s.

He was wearing a blue hooded fleece with the word "Wicked" on the front as well as a black-and-red Guinness fleece, navy tracksuit bottoms with a white stripe and navy shoes with black socks.

A Garda spokesman said: "We are hoping someone will recognise these tattoos and contact us."

Garda are appealing to anyone who knows the man, or who may have given him the tattoos, to contact them in confidence.

The Garda spokesman added: "All we want is to get this poor man's body back to his family."



Fantasy creature attacks a cobra-like snake coiled round skulls



The tattoo on the corpse's right shoulder



Tattoo of a hooded figure wielding an axe

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OUTSIDE

Today, it will be a cloudy day with some sunshine in the north. Cloud will thicken during the day with patchy rain in the west. There will be heavy and thundery rain moving northwards during the afternoon. Monday will be dry and fine with sunny spells and patchy cloud. On Tuesday, it will be cloudier with spells of rain spreading north-eastwards to all through the day.

SUN
Rises : 7.4am
Sets : 6.23pm

— denotes not available m-misty c-cloudy s-sunny r-rain dr-drizzle sn-snow f-fair fg-fog sh-showers th-thunder hl-hail sl-sleet



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