HIV's nasty side effects

I hesitate to call Anthony Brink a liar, but in my reading of the mainstream medical literature I have failed to come across the "hundreds of studies indicating the profound toxicity to all human cells of AZT" and the numerous studies showing that babies exposed to AZT in the womb suffer brain damage, et cetera.

The United States Food and Drug Administration and drug regulatory bodies in other countries — which approved the use of AZT — presumably missed these studies as well.

Why is the "enormous, growing corpus of little-known research literature in the medical/scientific press concerning the serious toxicity of AZT and nevirapine" so little known? Could it be garbage?

All drugs have side effects. HIV has a few pretty serious ones too — visit a children's ward in any South African hospital. — *CD Karabus, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Cape Town*

Drew Forrest's reference to Anthony Brink as a buffoon is entirely justified, and Brink's response (Letters, November 11) only reinforces that notion. What makes him so dangerous is his unshakeable conviction that he is right — even though his beliefs about anti-retrovirals are held by only a handful of quacks.

No one denies AZT has undesirable side effects, but Brink exaggerates these — and the alternative for Aids sufferers is death. Brink would have us believe the Rath Foundation's vitamin programme can reverse the effects of Aids, an outlandish claim unsubstantiated by reputable data.

If people like Brink really have good intentions, they are gravely misguided; if they are out to make a profit, they are psychopathic. Either way, they must be stopped. — *Alex Myers, Cape Town*

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