



The Royal College of Pathologists  
Pathology: the science behind the cure



## Virus

Viruses are among the smallest infectious organisms, much smaller than bacteria and invisible even with a standard microscope. Virologists are the pathology specialists who investigate diseases caused by viruses such as influenza, HIV and chicken pox.

Many viral illnesses have no cure yet - antibiotics don't have any effect on viruses so are no use when you've got a cold.