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(54) **Biomarkers for assessing HIV**

(57) The present invention relates to a metabolic biomarker set for assessing HIV comprising at least one acylcarnitine (AC) and at least one sphingomyelin (SM). Moreover, the present invention relates to a method for assessing HIV in a mammalian subject which comprises obtaining a biological sample, preferably blood, from the subject and measuring in the biological sample the amount of at least one acylcarnitine (AC) and at least

one sphingomyelin (SM), as well as to a kit adapted to carry out the method. By employing the specific biomarkers and the method according to the present invention it becomes possible to more properly and reliably assess HIV. In particular, it becomes possible to screen for and diagnose HIV in a patient with high accuracy and predict early in advance the patient's therapeutic response to antiretroviral therapy.

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