

**PREVENTING HIV INFECTION**

## **Long-acting injectable cabotegravir proving to be highly efficacious in preventing HIV infection**

Interim results of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) 084 study were announced on 9 November 2020, wherein the long-acting injectable cabotegravir was shown to be 89% more effective than daily oral tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) in preventing infection with HIV. This followed an early un-blinding recommendation from an independent data safety monitoring board, given that the study showed superiority of cabotegravir relative to current pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) standard-of-care. The study confirms similar outcomes of HPTN 083, announced in May 2020, wherein long-acting injectable cabotegravir proved superior in preventing HIV infection in 4 570 men who have sex with men and transgender women who have sex with men in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, United States, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam.

HPTN 084 study is a phase III double-blind study designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of injectable cabotegravir administered as an intramuscular injection once every eight weeks, relative to daily oral TDF/FTC tablets (200 mg/300 mg) for preventing HIV acquisition. The study began in November 2017 and enrolled 3 223 women aged 18–45 years at increased risk of HIV acquisition in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Eswatini, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Of 38 women who acquired

HIV during the trial, four were from the cabotegravir arm, and 34 were from the daily oral TDF/FTC arm. The HIV incidence rate was 0.21% (95% confidence interval [CI] 0.06%–0.54%) in the cabotegravir group and 1.79% (95% CI 1.24%–2.51%) in the TDF/FTC group. While both methods were highly effective at preventing HIV infection, long-acting cabotegravir was 89% (95% CI 68–96%) more effective than TDF/FTC.

If approved, the use of long-acting injectables provides women with more discrete, empowering and effective options to minimise their risk of HIV infection.

For further information:

<https://viivhealthcare.com/en-gb/media/press-releases/2020/november/viiv-Healthcare-announces-investigational-injectable-cabotegravir-is-superior-to-oral-standard-of-care-for-HIV-prevention-in-women/>

<https://www.who.int/news/item/09-11-2020-trial-results-reveal-that-long-acting-injectable-cabotegravir-as-prep-is-highly-effective-in-preventing-hiv-acquisition-in-women>

<https://www.hptn.org/news-and-events/press-releases/long-acting-injectable-cabotegravir-highly-effective-prevention-hiv>