New Drug Watch: A Couple of Swells

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Two French cases raise a red flag about painful leg and foot swelling in HIVers just starting Kaletra, Abbott's one-two protease punch of ritonavir and lopinavir. The man and woman -- who had 32 CD4s between them -- were hospitalized, and the fluid buildup eventually subsided without KO'ing Kaletra. According to Abbott reps, it's much *mon dieu!* about nada. "Some mild leg swelling may occur when starting antiretrovirals, and peripheral edema is listed as a potential side effect in Kaletra's package insert," Anthony Japour, Abbott's associate medical director, told *POZ*. "Our review of 10,000 patients on the drug found only four who required hospitalization -- and all had other causes for the swelling." Obviously, he's never tried to find a pair of plus-size Manolos.

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