



Cure: Double Dolutegravir

Intensifying antiretroviral treatment may shrink one's viral reservoir, a Phase II trial found.

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Intensifying antiretroviral treatment by doubling the dose of dolutegravir may shrink the viral reservoir. Antiretrovirals can keep HIV suppressed, but the virus inserts its genetic blueprints into human cells and establishes a long-lasting viral reservoir that the drugs can't reach. People with HIV are at higher risk for comorbidities despite treatment, suggesting that residual viral replication may lead to chronic inflammation. In a Phase II trial, 20 HIV-positive adults with viral suppression on a standard regimen of 50 milligrams of dolutegravir plus abacavir and lamivudine either stayed on the same combo or added an extra 50 mg dolutegravir for 84 days. The intensification group saw declines in total and intact HIV DNA and unspliced HIV RNA in peripheral blood cells. Double dolutegravir was associated with some changes in biomarkers of immune activation and exhaustion, but most were not statistically significant, and intensification had no notable effect on inflammation. These results suggest that the standard regimen prior to intensification may not have completely suppressed the virus.

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