

Vicriviroc Trial Enrolling Treatment First-Timers

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Schering-Plough Corporation [announced](#) today that it has begun enrolling a phase II study of its experimental CCR5-blocking [entry inhibitor vicriviroc](#) for people starting HIV treatment for the first time. Unlike standard drug combinations used to treat HIV-positive people new to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, the vicriviroc regimen being tested in this study does not use any nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors ([NRTIs](#)), reserving them for use in subsequent drug combinations and potentially reducing the risk of certain side effects.

In the [study](#), to be conducted in North America, Central America, Europe and South Africa, 200 patients will be allotted to receive either 30 mg vicriviroc once daily combined with [Norvir](#) (ritonavir)-boosted [Reyataz](#) (atazanavir) or the fixed-dose NRTI pair [Truvada](#) (tenofovir plus emtricitabine) plus Norvir-boosted Reyataz.

Another phase II study of vicriviroc, which is similar to Pfizer's approved drug [Selzentry](#) (maraviroc), in heavily treatment-experienced people found it to be superior to placebo in terms of viral load reductions and CD4 gains. In that trial, called VICTOR-01, vicriviroc was taken along with an optimized background regimen (OBR) of other ARVs and was compared with a placebo plus OBR. Patients in the vicriviroc arm did not have a greater rate of side effects than those in the placebo arm.
