Medicine Chest

HIV drug news

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Selzentry (maraviroc, an entry inhibitor) is now FDA-approved for people new to HIV meds. Before, it was available only to people who had developed resistance to other meds.

Intelence (etravirine, a non-nuke) has received full FDA approval—but it is still only prescribed for people who've already taken at least one previous HIV combo.

Bevirimat (an experimental maturation inhibitor) might not work for the nearly 40 percent of positive people whose HIV has certain resistance mutations. That's in addition to those with resistance to protease inhibitors (PIs), for whom bevirimat's power might also be muted. Researchers believe drug-resistance screening might be needed before bevirimat is prescribed.

Lexiva (fosamprenavir, a PI) may raise the risk of heart attack, according to the FDA. The drug's manufacturer suggests screening people for triglyceride and cholesterol levels before prescribing Lexiva.

Retrovir (zidovudine, a nuke) can now be given to babies as young as 4 weeks old (before, it was only for infants 6 weeks and up). The FDA has also issued new pediatric dosing guidelines for the drug. For details, search "new dosing Retrovir" at fda.gov.

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