



Prevention: Long-Acting PrEP

Long-acting injections given every two months could soon offer a new option for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis.

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Long-acting injections given every two months could soon offer a new option for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Results from the HPTN 083 trial showed that cabotegravir injections every other month were more effective than daily tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (Truvada or a generic equivalent) for cisgender men and transgender women who have sex with men. The study found that 13 people randomly assigned to the cabotegravir group acquired HIV, compared with 39 in the Truvada group (0.41 versus 1.22 cases per 100 person-years), indicating that the injections were 66% more effective. This is remarkable given that the daily pill reduces HIV risk by about 99% for gay and bisexual men who use it consistently. The parallel HPTN 084 trial showed that long-acting cabotegravir also works better than daily Truvada for cisgender women in Africa. In that study, the difference was even greater—the injections were 92% more effective—as women appear more likely than men to have difficulty taking daily PrEP pills consistently.

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