



Prevention: PrEP and Kids' Bones

Researchers looked at data from an ongoing study of PrEP use during pregnancy in Kenya.

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Children whose mothers used tenofovir-based pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) during pregnancy did not have reduced bone density or stunted growth compared with unexposed kids, according to study findings presented at the International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science. Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF, a component of the Truvada pill) has been linked to bone loss when used for HIV treatment, but there's a lack of research on children whose mothers took PrEP during pregnancy. Researchers looked at data from an ongoing study of PrEP use during pregnancy in Kenya. As previously reported, an assessment by study nurses found that children exposed to TDF before birth showed no notable differences in growth or neurological development for up to three years. A more in-depth analysis using whole-body DEXA scans found that exposed and unexposed children had similar height and bone mineral density. "Our findings bolstered the safety profile of PrEP use for pregnant women," the researchers concluded.

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