Prevention: PrEP for Women

A study finds that long-acting cabotegravir Is an effective PrEP option for women.

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Cabotegravir injections administered every two months are more effective than daily Truvada (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine) for protecting women against HIV. Although Truvada is highly effective when taken consistently, researchers think the injections work better because some people find it easier to adhere to the long-acting regimen. Study HPTN 084 enrolled more than 3,000 women in Africa. They were randomly assigned to receive either long-acting cabotegravir injections every eight weeks or daily Truvada pills. Of the 38 women who acquired HIV, 34 were taking Truvada, and just four were taking long-acting cabotegravir, showing that the injections were 89% more effective than Truvada. These results are comparable to those of HPTN 083, a companion study that enrolled more than 4,000 men and trans women. In that study, cabotegravir injections were 66% more effective than daily Truvada. ViiV Healthcare says injectable cabotegravir for PrEP could be approved by late 2021.

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